

Hafa Adai!

4 nominated for Chamber's Business Person of the Year. **PAGE 8**
Delta's Sky magazine cover features the Marianas. **PAGE 9**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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A huge column of ash shoots up to the sky during the eruption of Mayon volcano Monday, Jan. 22, 2018 as seen from Legazpi city, Albay province, around 340 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines. **AP**

Philippines' Mayon Volcano explodes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' most active volcano exploded thunderously Monday, sending a huge gray column of lava fragments, ash and steam into the sky and prompting authorities to warn that a violent eruption may be imminent.

The noontime explosion sent superheated lava, molten rocks and steam cascading down Mount Mayon's slopes and shrouded nearby villages in darkness, said Renato

See VOLCANO on Page 4

Judge orders final distribution of \$19.3M to Mangabao estate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has ordered the final distribution of the \$19.3 million paid by the CNMI government to the heirs of the estate of Maria Mangabao, its administrator, and lawyers.

The government paid the Mangabao estate \$3 million on March 3, 2017, and a little over \$16 million on Aug. 18, 2017—for a total of \$19.3 million over the taking of the estate's land in Chalan Kanoa in 1993.

In a decree of final distribution, Govendo ordered the payment to the lawyers and the estate administrator first, then equally divided the remain-

ing funds to the three identified heirs of the Mangabao estate: \$5,335,216 each to the estates of Vicente Rangamar, Visitacion Rangamar Flores, and Ramona Rangamar.

The law firm of O'Connor, Ber- man, Dotts & Banes and the estate of Edward Arriola shall get \$3 million, representing their claim

See JUDGE on Page 4

Probable cause to charge ex-Club 88 manager

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court found probable cause yesterday to charge the former manager of the Club 88 mini casino



Stafford

at the Ocean-view Hotel in Garapan of stealing over \$20,000 cash from the casino's vault.

At a preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable to believe that the crime of theft was committed and that Daniel Ryan Stafford may

See PROBABLE on Page 4

Bill: Disclose financial contributions before elections

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A measure to require candidates for elected positions to disclose their financial contributions prior to an

election is currently being studied by a committee at the House of Representatives.

House Bill 20-138, as offered by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), proposes to require candidates to

submit a detailed financial statement of accounts to the Office of the Public Auditor and the Commonwealth Election Commission within an election year on a quarterly basis as well as seven days prior to the election.

Current law requires candidates to file financial statements 50 days after an election.

Propst's bill is currently with the House Committee on Judiciary and

See BILL on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The eight candidates of the 2018 Miss Marianas contest walk the runway.

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ASIA

Activists burn a photo of Kim Jong Un at a Seoul railway station.

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OVERDRIVE

Honda makes a pitch for recognition as a leader in gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles.

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Local

Fashion show gives a peek at Miss Marianas bets

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The eight candidates who will be vying for the 2018 Miss Marianas tiara this February walked the runway in a mini-

fashion show called "Fashion by Nature" last Sunday evening in nature-inspired outfits at the T-Galleria.

According to Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer, the show was held in preparation

for the grand pageant on Feb. 24 and to give the candidates a taste of what pageant night would be like.

"Through a mini-fashion show representing the natural beauty of the islands...the



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The eight candidates who will be vying for the 2018 Miss Marianas tiara this February pose with Miss Marianas 2016 Peachy Quitugua and a brand new 2018 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors outside the T-Galleria.

eight lovely contestants got a taste of the Miss Marianas pageant stage set for this Feb. 24," she said.

The 2018 Miss Marianas contestants are Eden Conner, Jaiden McPhetres Santos, Cris Noel Obaldo, Kaysha Aguon Cruz, Leisha Mendiola Deleon Guerrero, Chloe Parrone Salvosa, Maricris Zapanta, and Celine Concepcion Cabrera.

The mini-fashion show was nature-themed to promote the Miss Marianas 2018 pageant theme.

"We wanted to promote the pageant theme for this year, which is 'Enchanted,' celebrating the beauty and enchantment of our local forests, diverse wildlife, and the cultural traditions that weave

around them," said Boyer.

The show was a collaboration between the Commonwealth Cultural Arts Council and the Pena House Boutique and featured outfits that were paired with local and natural materials from talented artists Gloria and Jacob, Irma Scalamera, and Cris and Jun Factor. T-Galleria's beauty team also helped with make up for the candidates.

Miss Marianas 2016 Peachy Quitugua and Stellar Marianas Community Events director Romolo Orsini served as master of ceremonies.

A brand new 2018 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors was also unveiled.

"We love our longtime community partner, Triple

J Motors, for providing the best and most stylish mode of transportation for a very busy queen who will be doing lots of volunteer work for the year," said Boyer.

The candidates also had a daylong photo shoot at the Ed's Bonita Park last Saturday and a Slumber Party at the Aqua Resort Club over the weekend.

The 2018 Miss Marianas pageant tickets are now on sale at \$40 apiece. Tickets are available with any of the 2018 Miss Marianas contestants.

The pageant will be held on Feb. 24 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. For more information, visit Stellar Marianas' Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas.



FUELS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The position is responsible for performing maintenance, service, and repairs of equipment at Retail and Commercial Sites. Candidates should have knowledge in the maintenance field, possess excellent communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work flexible hours. Interested applicants must have five years of technical repairs and must be certified Level I-III with Gilbarco-VeederRoot Systems.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Tuesday, January 30, 2018. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

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A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

The Marianas
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For bikers and others heading to the 14th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 17-18, 2018, ferry service will be available from Saipan on Feb. 16-19. Star Marianas will also extend flights up until 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 & 18.

The Super Emerald ferry schedule is:

- Feb. 16, departing Saipan at 6 p.m. and departing Tinian at 8:30 p.m.;
- Feb. 17, departing Saipan at 9 a.m. and departing Tinian at 6:30 p.m.;
- Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 9 a.m. and departing Tinian at 5 p.m.; and
- Feb. 19, departing Saipan at 8 a.m. and departing Tinian at 12 p.m.

Passengers will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base and must check in one hour before departure.

Ferry round trip cost is \$20 for ages 3-11, \$35 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is \$10 for ages 3-11, \$18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs. of cargo, including bicycles. A \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo. Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office in Tinian and Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

The festival highlights Tinian's famously potent "donni sali" pepper. The event is also co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and the 16th Tinian Municipal Council and sponsored by MVA members. Activities will include the road/off road 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 17 at 6 a.m., cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the umang (hermit crab), join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball), cook your best "kadun pika" (spicy stew), Cha-cha to the championship, arm wrestle or join the donni sali eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on both days.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365, email MVA Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com, or visit The Marianas Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com

DESPITE FEDERAL GOVT SHUTDOWN

District court remains open through Feb. 9

The U.S. District Court for the NMI will remain open and can continue operations for approximately three weeks despite the federal government shutdown, which started midnight of Jan. 20.

According to an announcement posted in the U.S. District Court's website, the federal judiciary will be open and continue operations through Feb. 9, by using court fee balances and other funds not dependent on new appropriation.

Most proceedings and deadlines will occur as scheduled. In cases where an attorney from an Executive Branch agency is not working because of the shutdown, hearing and filing dates may be rescheduled.

Case management/electronic case files also will remain in

operation for electronic filing of documents.

If the shutdown were to continue past Feb. 9, and

the Judiciary's resources become exhausted, the Judiciary would then operate under the terms of the Anti-Deficiency

Act, which allows work to continue during a lapse in appropriations if it is necessary to support the exercise of Ar-

ticle III judicial powers.

"Under this scenario, each court and federal defender's office would determine the

staffing resources necessary to support such work," the announcement said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Reyes is newest Zoning Board member

The fifth member of the seven-member Commonwealth Zoning Board—Patrick Villagomez Reyes—was confirmed yesterday at the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation meeting on Capitol Hill.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres nominated Reyes to the board last Nov. 29.

The delegation managed to concur with the Torres' nomination only this month due to the holidays and several other requirements the delegation needed to deal with first, according to delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

In an interview after his confirmation, Reyes, who is an electrical and computer engineering graduate of the now defunct ITT Tech Institute Las Vegas, said he is ready to serve.

"I am going to focus on our main [economic driver], tourism," he said, adding that "safety and security of the CNMI" would also be in his sights.

"I am going to work with [other] experienced individuals, so I am looking forward to it," he said.

Other members of the Zoning board include chair Diego Blanco, Mario Taitano, Joe Ayuyu Jr., and Joel Camacho. Reyes has yet to be sworn into the board.

Torres continues to search for two more members for the board. (*Erwin Encinares*)

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EDUCATION ADVOCATES

Board of Education chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada and vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio, Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thorburgh, and financial consultant Edward S. Tenorio meet with House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Committee on Education chair Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Saipan), and Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) yesterday. They discussed PSS' funding needs as work starts on the latest budget supplement.

PSS

BILL

From Page 1

Governmental Operations.

The JGO has opted to seek the comments of the OPA on the bill due to the mountain of paperwork it would impose on the public auditor's office.

"We wanted to reach out to the public auditor to seek his opinion," said JGO chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan). "Is his office able to carry out the load? We are talking about

[several] candidates," he said, adding that the bill has provisions that require each candidate to submit at most five financial statements to the OPA within a year.

In all, there are 44 seats up for grabs this coming Nov. 6. Given that all candidates announced their intention to run and each seat has two candidates running for it, the OPA would have to look at 440 financial statements prior to the election. The bill does not remove

the requirement to disclose a candidate's financial statement post-elections, so the OPA would be reviewing an additional 88 more financial reports after the elections.

"It [might] be an unfunded mandate, [with] more pressure on the OPA," Blanco said.

According to Propst, the bill's purpose is to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest and no compelling interests among the candidates.

"If you have a huge corporation backing a particular

candidate, I think it's safe to say the public should know," he said, adding that his research pointed out that every state, including territories such as Guam, have similar provisions in their laws.

"This [law] basically catches us up with the rest of the world," he said. "It is very important that we report financial statements and have full disclosure so that the public is fully aware where we receive our financial contributions from."

JUDGE

From Page 1

against the Mangabao estate for legal fees.

Mangabao estate administrator Ramon A. Tebuteb shall receive \$250,000, representing payment for nearly 15 years of service to the court and the estate and for reimbursement of fees paid to the law firm of Smith and William for legal services provided to the estate.

Berline & Associates LLC shall receive \$30,000 representing legal fees for the pro-

bate and administration of the estate, while James R. Stump shall get \$11,312.50 representing legal fees for services provided to the estate, according to Govendo.

Govendo heard Tebuteb's petition for final distribution last Dec. 22. Tebuteb appeared with his counsel, Benjamin K. Petersburg.

The administrators for the estate of Vicente Rangamar, Visitacion Flores, and Ramona Rangamar appeared with their counsel, Vicente DLG Torres.

Julia Seman objected to the distribution, asserting she has an interest in the distri-

bution of the estate. Govendo denied her claim.

Last July, Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore Alberto C. Lamorena ordered the CNMI government to pay the Mangabao estate \$16.3 million by Aug. 18, 2017.

Lamorena said the amount represents the outstanding principal and interest the CNMI government owed that will have accrued by Aug. 18, 2017.

The judge issued the order after the parties in the Mangabao's lawsuit submitted in court a stipulated payment plan. Assistant attorney gen-

eral Charles E. Brasington, counsel for the government, submitted the stipulated payment plan.

Last June, Lamorena commended the CNMI government for making a payment of \$3 million to the heirs of the Mangabao estate, but ordered the government to begin paying the remaining over \$15 million balance to the heirs within 30 days.

According to court records, the CNMI and the Mangabao heirs agreed to the taking of land consisting of 6,000 square meters in 1993 and a judgment of \$4.2 million.

PROBABLE

From Page 1

have committed the offense.

Camacho heard the testimony of the government's witnesses: police detective John Wabol and casino consultant Kenneth John Warner.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid, counsel for the government, argued that a surveillance camera at Club 88 showed that on Nov. 28 and 29, 2017, Stafford was holding stacks of money on his desk.

Wilberscheid said that on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2017, Stafford did not report for work.

The prosecutor said it was only Stafford and a couple of others who knew the casino vault's combination number.

Wilberscheid said the company-issued car service to Stafford was found abandoned near Coral Ocean Point last Dec. 7.

Defense counsel David Banes argued that no one saw Stafford taking the money from the vault and that three people actually have access to it.

After the hearing, the 40-year-old Stafford was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Arraignment will be on Jan. 29 at 9am.

According to the prosecutor in court document, Stafford stole over \$20,000 cash from Club 88's vault between Sept. 28, 2017, and Dec. 1, 2017, on Saipan.

Police responded to a call about a theft incident at Club 88 after a person called that the vault should have contained \$32,203, but just had \$1,900 in it.

The court issued an arrest warrant for Stafford last Dec. 7, but the suspect surrendered to the police last Jan. 12.

Stafford remains in jail after failing to post the \$50,000 cash bail.

VOLCANO

From Page 1

Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology and other officials.

Authorities raised the alert level to four on a scale of five, which means an ex-

plosive eruption is possible within hours or days. A danger zone around Mayon was expanded to 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the crater.

"If the eruption is vertical, it's possible pyroclastic flows or pyroclastic density currents may cascade down in all directions," Solidum

told a news conference, warning villagers and tourists not to venture into the no-go zones and airplanes to stay safely away from the crater and ash-laden winds.

More than 27,000 villagers have fled since Mayon started acting up more than a week ago.

Mayon is in coconut-growing Albay province, about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila. With its near-perfect cone, it is popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently.

In 2013, an ash eruption

killed five climbers who had ventured near the summit despite warnings. Mayon's first recorded eruption was in 1616 and the most destructive, in 1814, killed 1,200 people and buried the town of Cagsawa in volcanic mud.

The Philippines lies in the so-called "Ring of Fire," a

line of seismic faults surrounding the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.



GMS parents, staff learn ropes of 'common-sense parenting'

The Parent Education Services under the Division of Youth Services hosted a Common Sense Parenting workshop for Green Meadow School teachers, staff, and parents for six Tuesdays, from Nov. 6 to Dec. 19, 2017, in Chalan Piao.

Participants were awarded with certificates of attendance at their final day last Dec. 19, 2017. The certificates were presented by Maria Olopai, DYS-Common Sense Parenting parent trainer, and Junnie Masga, Parent Education Program assistant coordinator.

Milagros Songcuan, GMS president and principal, expressed appreciation for the

support and cooperation of everyone present.

Many of the participants were grateful to Olopai's patience in answering all their questions.

"She was very jolly and very accommodating. We enjoyed the workshop very much," said one of the parents.

"We are very thankful to DYS for coming up with this kind of workshop. ...Parents will greatly benefit from this," said Norlyn Cabrera, another parent.

This Common Sense Parenting workshop served as a refresher course, focusing on techniques and strategies in disciplining children. (PR)

Scheduled power outage on Jan. 27

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely perform line clearing near the primary lines along Haiguas Ln. Chalan Piao.

This is part on an ongoing maintenance program

throughout the island.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (3" partial), affecting Chalan Piao (Haiguas Ln., Niyok Dr., Ramona Ln., and Teodoro Dr.). No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected by this outage.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)



Green Meadow School teachers, staff, and parents attend a Common Sense Parenting workshop presented by the Parent Education Services under the Division of Youth Services. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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IT&E would like to remind its customers that all current and outstanding billing of accounts are due on or before **Tuesday, January 23, 2018**. Payment not received by close of business on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** will result in temporary suspension of all services after 6 p.m.

To avoid any service interruption, customers are hereby advised to kindly remit payment for their billing on or before **Tuesday, January 23, 2018**. Any disputed charges must be brought to IT&E's attention either in writing or in person to the IT&E Chalan Laulau Store by 5 p.m. on **January 23, 2018**. Any undisputed amounts must still be paid to avoid temporary suspension of services.

If you have any questions regarding billing or services, please contact the Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4ITE (4483) or visit the IT&E Store in Chalan Laulau.



Payments are accepted at the following convenient locations:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00PM
Chalan Laulau (Monday to Saturday) – 8:00AM to 5:00PM
TSL Plaza (Monday to Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Kagman Store (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Tinian / Rota Office (Monday to Friday) – 8:00AM to 4:30PM

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*Terms & conditions apply. 24 month agreement and plan required for postpaid promotions. Limited time offer and while supplies last. Other terms and conditions may apply.



TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES

Northern Marianas College recently hosted a training workshop that focused on best practices for commercial building maintenance in the CNMI. Participants included employees of Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and NMC. A few topics included effectively capturing the Value of Life Cycle Costing (LCC), avoiding common Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations, and accurately using a five-year plan to project future maintenance costs. The training was organized and facilitated by David Casavant, far left, and Vinnie Del Borrello, third from far right, from the Sustainable Workplace Alliance.

NMC

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sablan will address SHRM on Jan. 25

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will be speaking at the Jan. 25 meeting of the Human Resource Management NMI Chapter about the recently introduced Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, legislation to extend the CW visa program.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The presentation is open to the public. Sablan will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

Meeting of Kagman farmers

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform farmers and farmers of the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, at 9am at the Division of Agriculture's Kagman station. Topics to be discussed will include the upcoming election of S&NISWCD administrators. The DLNR is looking for farmers to be administrators of the S&NISWCD. If you are interested or would like to get information on this matter call Diane Gabaldon at 256-3319. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 23, from 9am to 4pm
- Jan. 24-25, from noon to 8pm

The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 26 and 28, from 10am to 11:59pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

World Cancer Day Awareness Walk planned for Yap

COLONIA, YAP—Yap's Non-Communicable Disease and cancer programs will sponsor an awareness walk on Sunday, Feb. 4, to highlight World Cancer Day.

Registration, raffle sign-up and distribution of free T-shirts will begin at 3:30pm at the hospital. Everyone is invited to join in the walk that will start at the hospital, circle around the lagoon, enter Milroo behind the Bahai Center, continue through Nimar and exit at Domathing by Guang Mao, finishing back at the hospital with the raffle of prizes beginning at 4:45pm.

"World Cancer Day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and education about cancer," said Jennifer Palemar of Yap Cancer Program. "This awareness walk is one way we are encouraging everyone in Yap to take action against the disease, so come out and help us put cancer on the list of preventable diseases that have been eradicated forever." For more information contact Jennifer Palemar at jenny.palemar@gmail.com. (PR)

Initiating change within indigenous communities

The Pacific Islands Bilingual-Bicultural Association Guam Chapter will have a public presentation and conversation with Dr. Deborah Ellen on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 11am to noon at the University of Guam, HSS106. Her presentation title is, "If you wanted to change a culture in a single generation, how would you do it? Ellen, a longtime educator and proponent of educational reform and indigenous rights, asks the questions: In what ways can the implementation of English and Western education impact indigenous communities? How do circumstances within Guam's educational system compare to other indigenous communities? What can we learn from the work of others within indigenous communities in regard to maintaining languages and ways of being? There is no admission fee. For more information, contact PIBBA, Guam Chapter president Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522 or secretary Lois Gumataotao at 727-5647. (PR)




REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, January 26, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Oath of Office
 2. Call to Order
 3. Roll Call
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Special Board Meeting – December 20, 2017
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
 1. Finance –
 - a. Fund Status Report - December 2017
- 4) **New Business**
 1. Grotto Invitation to Bid (ITB)
- 5) **Old Business**
 1. MOU for Saipan Mayor's Office Beautification Projects – No Cost Extension
 2. House of Chamorros Sponsorship
- 6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) **Executive Session**
- 8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Chairwoman, MVA Board of Directors



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date:	February 23, 2018
Time:	3:00 p.m.
Submit sealed proposals to:	Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC. Plaintiff	: CIVIL ACTION : NO. 11-0131
-v-	
LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS Defendant	: :

SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot NO. 2018-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1 having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956;
Thence N 13° 35' 00" E, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 80° 13' 00" E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 09° 47' 00" E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 80° 13' 00" W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 2, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd of January, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Francisca Nebrida Gaolong
P.O. Box 505651 C.K.
670-286-0605 / 783-5778

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Francisca Nebrida Gaolong Petitioner) FCD-DI-CIVIL) ACTION) NO. 18-0016
vs.	
Feng Gaolong Respondent	:) SUMMONS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Francisca N. Gaolong whose mailing address is P.O. Box 505651 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at P.O. Box 500307 Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2018.
/s/ Clerk of Court



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SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-129L
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NOW \$24,199*



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WAS \$25,999*
NOW \$24,999*



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NOW \$26,899*



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NOW \$26,999*



2017 Tacoma 2WD, DC, SR5
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NOW \$27,599*



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NOW \$27,699*



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4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
WAS \$31,399*
NOW \$28,699*



2015 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P
NOW \$29,399*



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Mileage 12,665, 8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R
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4 nominated for Chamber's Business Person of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has named four individuals as its nominees for the 2017 Business Person of the Year. The winner will be named on Jan. 27 at the Chamber's annual Business Person of the Year Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The nominees are Velma Palacios of IT&E, Tyrell Pauling of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Ivan Quichocho of Let's Go Tours, and Yoshihito Shibahata of Pacific

Islands Club.

The winner will remain secret until the official announcement at the gala itself on Jan. 27.

The Business Person of the Year Gala, formerly known as the Chamber's Installation Dinner, is the organization's signature fundraising event.

Business managers and owners, government officials, and young professionals gather for a fabulous evening. The focus of this year is to celebrate the BPOY nominees

while leading up to the official announcement of the winner.

Each nominee must be a member of the Chamber and must reside on Saipan. Qualifying criteria includes active personal participation in the Chamber's committees, events, programs, and meetings; active community involvement and contributions; and being widely recognized for his/her area of expertise.

The nominations will be judged by the prior recipients of this award and by the

four officers of the Chamber board. Prior BPOY award-ees include: Mike Sablan of Triple J (2016), Alex Youn of AC Pacific (2015), Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club (2014), Marcie Tomokane of Bank of Guam (2013), Marcia E. Ayuyu of RJ Corporation (2012) and Anthony Pellegrino of Saipan Sea Ventures (2012), James Arenovski of Delta Management Corp. (2011), Bob Jones of Triple J Corp. (2010), Ben Babauta of DFS Saipan (2009), Kathryn

H. Barry of KB Communications (2008), K.J. Kim of Asiana Airlines (2007), Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Bakery/MITA Travel (2006), David M. Sablan Sr. of Century Insurance (2005), Mark Erwin of Continental Airlines (2004), Jerry Tan of TanHoldings (2003), Alex Sablan of Saipan Shipping Co. (2002), Jay B. Jones of Triple J Motors (2001), Wendi S. Herring of Pacific Islands Club (2000), Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (1999), Joe C. Ayuyu

of McDonald's Saipan (1998), Edward Camacho of Pacific Financial Corp. (1997), and Efrain F. Camacho of EFC Engineers and Architects (1996).

Another highlight of the night is the installation of the 2018 board of directors. They will be sworn in by Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio. The event will be held from 6pm to 9pm.

Each guest will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction that will feature a variety of prizes donated by member businesses. Proceeds of the auction will directly support the programs and activities of the Chamber such as its annual scholarships, educational workshops, employment training seminars, military vessel welcomes, and Saipan Young Professionals activities.

Seating is limited. Seats are available by advance purchase only at \$75 per person.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization consisting of private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Call 234-7150 or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe for more information. (PR)



CARE supporters at the 2nd Typhoon Soudelor anniversary commemoration last Aug. 2.

CARE invites public to 'impact meeting' tomorrow

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts is hosting its 3rd Annual Impact Meeting tomorrow, Jan. 24, at 10am in the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

CARE invites community members, past and current clients, donors, and support-

ers to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to report on the island's rebuilding progress from Typhoon Soudelor as well as the remaining scope of work to help all families recover.

The head of Saipan Recovery from the Mennonite Disaster Service, John Eshle-



A finished roof that makes the home safe and secure for the parents and their children, protecting them from future typhoons.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

man from California, will be in attendance, as well as other local recovery advocates.

CARE's mission is to build a resilient community and to identify, facilitate, and deliver resources and long-term

support to address the unmet needs of individuals and families impacted by disaster.

Since September 2015, 190 families have benefited from the CARE Repair and Rebuilding Program by receiv-

ing building materials and/or skilled volunteer labor. While many have been able to fully recover, thanks to CARE's assistance, there are still over 40 families who have an immediate need for repair and rebuild work today. CARE needs to raise over \$400,000 to help the remaining families recover from the typhoon.

For more information on how CARE prioritizes families in need of assistance, visit <https://www.carecnmi.org/faq/>.

Since July 1, 2017, CARE no longer accepted new cases for disaster recovery assistance. The organization has over 40 clients on its waitlist, and the network does not have enough funds to accommodate those who have already been waiting for over two years. (PR)



Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers rebuild a roof that was destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPW to bring energy campaign to Tinian

The Department of Public Works, through the Energy Division Office, will be holding the 2018 Tinian Energy Awareness Campaign this Saturday, Jan. 27, from 8:30am to 11:30am at the Tinian Youth Center.

The Energy Division,

through its Energy, Education, Efficiency and Conservation Program efforts, will be distributing reusable shopping bags and a portable stove for each residential consumer at the Tinian Youth Center. Items will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and

while supplies last.

This event will provide the residential community tips on how to conserve energy at home and how to save money using efficient products that carry the Energy Star label and educate the community on the importance of energy conser-

vation in the Commonwealth.

This promotion is only available to residential consumers who must provide the most recent utility billing and must be present to avail of this promotion. For any reason an account holder is unable to make it, he/she must provide an authorization letter authorizing another person to avail of this promotion. Residents who

have their landlord's name on their utility billing must provide a lease agreement.

For questions or information regarding this promotion, contact Maile Iakopo at 664-4480/4.

Funding opportunity for this project was possible through a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy-State Energy Program. (PR)

Island volcano in Papua New Guinea erupts with ash, steam

SYDNEY (AP)—An island volcano in Papua New Guinea erupted again Sunday, sending plumes of steam and ash into the air.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from islands surrounding Kadovar Island off the South Pacific nation's north coast since the volcano there began erupting on Jan. 5. Flights nearby have been canceled due to the risk posed by ash plumes and ships were warned to stay away from the island.

Experts warned last week that seismic activity beneath the volcano meant that a major eruption could be imminent.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has previously said state resources were being made available to support evacuations and he has warned northern coastal communities to be alert for possible tsunamis.

Kadovar is off the northern coast of New Guinea, the larger island that includes Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea sits on the "Ring of Fire," a line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific that has frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Delta's *Sky* magazine cover features The Marianas

The inflight magazine of Delta Air Lines in Japan, called *Sky*, has placed The Marianas on the cover of its January-February issue and includes an 11-page, full color feature story on Saipan.

In conjunction with the extensive coverage, the Marianas Visitors Authority launched a Marianas promotion on Jan. 16 at the Delta Sky Club lounge at the Narita International Airport in Tokyo.

The one-month promotion features images and videos of

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as displays and sampling by Saipan Brewing Co. and Marianas Coffee.

"This is the first time ever for the Marianas to be featured at the Delta Sky Club in Tokyo-Narita. The brand exposure our destination [will] receive from this is enormous," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We're featuring stunning new images from our Marianas 30 Treasures campaign launched in Japan last year with updated visuals from



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, center, launches a Marianas promotion at Delta Air Lines' Sky Lounge at Narita International Airport on Jan. 16, 2018. From left are MVA Japan in-country manager Takashi Ichikura, Delta Air Lines coordinator of Japan Sales Promotion & Operations Junko Matsuo, Delta Air Lines program manager of Japan Sales Promotion & Operations Yuka Inui, Concepcion, owners Marissa Afleje-Sablan and Steven Sablan of Saipan Brewing Co., and MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz.

MVA



Delta Air Lines' *Sky* magazine features the Marianas in the cover story of in its January-February 2018 issue.

MVA

New scooters now available on Saipan

Scout Saipan has imported a shipment of gorgeous 150cc scooters for sale to the public.

Scooters are an affordable, efficient way to travel and a sensible choice for our island.

The Ves 150 scooters on offer from Scout Saipan are adequately powered for all of Saipan's hills and achieve fuel efficiency of greater than 70

miles per gallon.

Scooters are available in white, red, and black. The \$1,900 price tag includes a helmet and trunk. Similar models in Guam cost over \$3,000!

For more information, contact Jeremy Seelinger Devey at 670-989-4473 or visit facebook.com/Scout-Saipan. (PR)

Temporary water outage

There is a temporary water service interruption for residents along Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, portions of Kobleville, and portions of As Perdido beginning 10:30am yesterday. Customers in the affected areas will receive water at 6am this morning.

However, water service will continue to be interrupted at 10:30am in the next three days due to three main line breaks that were identified over the weekend by water operators of the Commonwealth Utilities

Corp. CUC's water operators are currently working on repairing these identified leaks.

Due to the road closures of the outmost southbound lanes, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling through the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



Trekking, stargazing, golf, diving, and other attractions on Saipan are featured in the January-February 2018 issue of Delta Air Lines' *Sky* magazine.

MVA

Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The Sky Club is frequented by travelers from all over the globe, so our reach is beyond just Japan.

"Importantly, coffee and beer are two of the most popular beverages consumed at the Sky Club, so featuring beer created by Saipan Brewing and coffee grown by Marianas Coffee brings added exposure for products locally made in the CNMI," Concepcion added. "We congratulate Saipan Brewing and Marianas Coffee for being featured in such a prominent venue."

About 600 business class

passengers, Delta SkyMiles Diamond, Platinum and Gold Medallion members, Sky Team elite members, and premier card members use the Tokyo-Narita Sky Club Lounge daily.

Sky magazine reaches over 800,000 readers with its bi-monthly issue circulated aboard Delta Air Lines flights in Japan and to travel trade representatives.

The article features the photography of renowned nature photographer Junji Takasago and highlights stargazing opportunities in this Pacific destination. (PR)

Learn how to identify agricultural pests

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service is inviting farmers, gardeners, and others to its free workshop focused on agriculture insect pest identification.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 8am to 12pm. The workshop is a two-part event with a lecture from 8am to 9:45am at the Aquaculture Laboratory and a field trip to NMC's As Perdido farm from 10am to 12pm for hands-on insect pest identification.

Participants of the workshop will have the opportunity to learn the various kinds of agriculture insect pests of important vegetable



The corn earworm, seen in this photo, will be one of the pests that will be discussed during the Pest Identification Workshop sponsored by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service on Jan. 30, from 8am to -12pm.

NMC

crops grown in the CNMI, the types of damage these in-

sect pests can do and how to control them, and the general

anatomy of these important insect pests and how to distinguish them apart.

At the workshop, participants will learn about the different agriculture insect pests like the melon fly, papaya mealy bug, and more.

Workshop organizers highly recommend that participants bring a hat and wear close-toed shoes for the second portion of the workshop at the As Perdido farm.

There is no cost to attend this workshop, but facilitators encourage participants to arrive early due to limited space.

For more information contact NMC CREES at 237-6840 or call Arnold Route at 788-7724. (NMC)

Navy to conduct underwater training in Outer Apra Harbor

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5 will conduct underwater detonation (UNDET) training in Outer Apra Harbor on Jan. 24 from 8am to 4pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate one 5-lb explosive at the designated UNDET location on a sandy area of the sea floor. For the safety of the public and participants involved,

the Coast Guard will establish a safety zone to restrict access in the vicinity.

EODMU-5 performs underwater detonation training to develop the skills needed to be ready to rapidly respond to operational missions and unexploded ordnance support on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Navy conducted a

multi-year environmental analysis, which the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, granted the Navy authorization to conduct underwater detonation training. The Navy is a committed environmental steward and employs protective measures to safeguard marine resources.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Missile gaffe a good reason to review emergency warnings

“Imagine learning that you have only minutes to live.”

That was the challenge posed last week by an irate Hawaii resident for whom the notion wasn't a conceptual exercise, but a terrifying reality.

A million and a half Americans in the Aloha State were scared out of their gourds last week—as would be any of us—to receive a stark state-issued warning on their cell phones: MISSILE THREAT INBOUND ... THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

It was neither threat nor drill, but human error. And it has provided rich fodder for television comedians, but to Hawaiians who endured a half-hour of unimaginable horror, it was anything but funny.

Astonishingly, the mistake was echoed three days later in Japan, when that nation's public broadcasting network sent out an alert warning that “North Korea likely to have launched” an inbound missile. That error was retracted within a few minutes.

The fear these messages engendered almost certainly speaks to the edgy tensions in the Pacific region. That's home to the most vulnerable bystanders in the saber-rattling contest of big-button brinksmanship playing out between U.S. President Donald Trump and volatile North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Regardless of your political stance on Twitter taunts aimed at unhinged dictators, though, the Hawaii episode makes one point clear: There is no margin for error in our emergency warning operations. Technology and social media can turn a trash-bucket blaze into a roaring wildfire in the blink of an eye, and it took Hawaii emergency management officials 38 agonizing minutes to find the fire extinguisher, so to speak, to cancel the alert.

Yes, human error happens. But this was an error almost asking to be made: A clumsy, outdated drop-down menu of alert options ranging from high waves and Amber alerts to approaching nuclear annihilation; language couched in wonky abbreviations and government gibberish; an after-the-fact Keystone Kops fire drill during which nobody knew how to rescind the faulty public warning that the entire state was about to be incinerated.

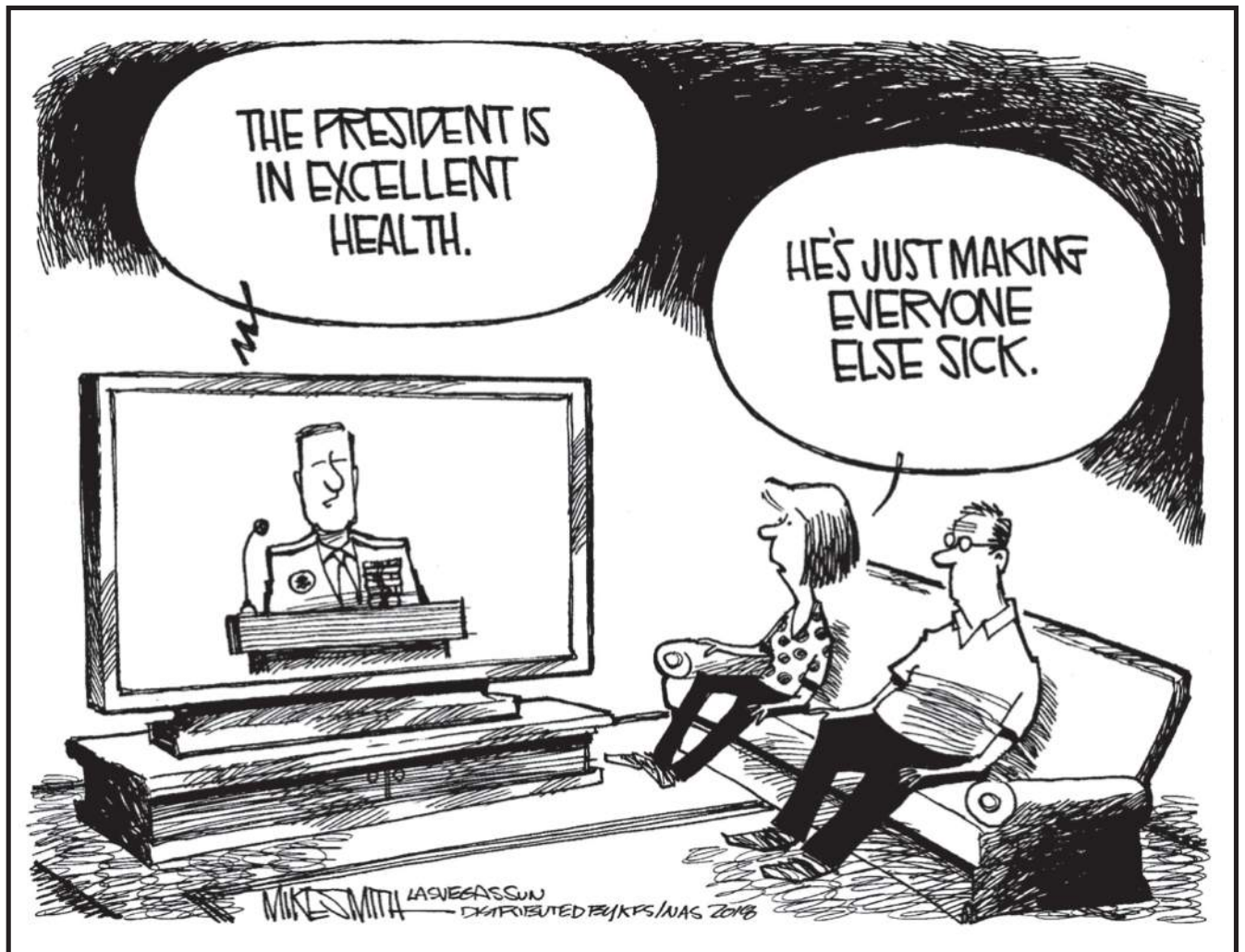
“We all click the wrong link now and then,” said Seattle-based tech writer Devin Coldewey, “but the consequence isn't destabilizing an entire state.”

It's worse than putting the public through a few frightening minutes. If we lose confidence in our emergency warning operations, how can we identify a legitimate threat?

“I would have to think twice before acting on any future advisory,” one resident fumed to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. The newspaper reported Tuesday that another man suffered a massive heart attack after bidding good-bye to his son and daughter over the phone during the false alarm.

Before other government jurisdictions point fingers,

See **MISSILE** on Next Page



4 reasons Norwegians won't go near Trump's welcome mat

By **DANA HILL**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Recently, President Donald Trump allegedly voiced his desire for “more people from places like Norway” to immigrate to the U.S.

That's just not going to happen.

Last year, I advised 24 law students studying the law and culture of Norway. During spring break, we traveled to Tromsø and Oslo, Norway, to interview lawyers, nongovernmental organizations and business people about a variety of the country's legal issues. Based on our visit, here's why the president is wrong-headed in thinking that hordes of Norwegians want to immigrate to America.

1. In Norway, it pays to parent

As we made our way through Oslo to conduct interviews, we observed a number of men with baby strollers—without women accompanying them. It was visual evidence of Norway's generous parental leave policies. Both parents receive a two-week post-birth leave, then split either a 46-week fully paid leave or a 56-week leave paid at 80 percent of their salary. If fathers don't take 10 weeks off, the whole family loses those 10 weeks of leave—which explains the solo dads. Accordingly, 90 percent of Norwegian fathers take at least 12 weeks off work to spend with their newborns.

By contrast, according to the 2016 National Compensation Survey, conducted annually by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 14 percent of private-sector workers in the U.S. have some form of paid family leave—the rest must take unpaid leave to care for their newborns.

2. Women are better represented on Norwegian boards

Norway requires 40 percent representation for both men and women on the boards of directors of public limited liability companies. From the time Norway's Parliament passed the law in 2003—the idea gained traction when the conservative minister of trade complained publicly that he was tired of seeing the same men at business meetings—to 2016, the median percentage of women sitting on boards of directors rose to 42 percent from 0 percent.

My students interviewed a “golden skirt,” who reported that Norwegian women still face challenges in rising through the cor-

porate ranks because of a lack of institutional female leadership in Norwegian corporations. However, she noted that the increase of women on corporate boards has financial benefits. According to a 2014 gender equity study by consulting firm McKinsey & Co., boards with more gender diversity financially outperform those with fewer women by about 15 percent.

In the U.S., women held only about 20 percent of board seats at S&P 500 companies in 2015, and 20 percent of board seats at Fortune 500 companies in 2016.

3. Norway is less corrupt

Norway is one of the least corrupt nations in the world. In fact, the students had difficulty finding examples of any corruption—the biggest complaint among our interviewees was that there weren't enough laws to deal with corruption in the event it exists. Global corruption watchdog Transparency International ranked Norway the sixth-cleanest country out of the 176 studied in 2016, with a score of 85. The U.S. was ranked 18th, with a score of 74.

Corruption costs us money, according to the Australia Institute. Its study found that each point a nation loses in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index corresponds with a \$486 per capita fall in gross domestic product. And we may be on course for a big drop in score for 2017—44 percent of Americans believe corruption is pervasive in the White House (as opposed to 36 percent in 2016), and 58 percent believe corruption has risen recently (versus 34 percent who said so in 2016).

4. The benefits are better too

According to the World Health Organization's “World Health Report 2000,” Norway's overall health system performance was ranked 11th out of 191 countries. Under Norway's universal health care system, personal medical expenses are capped at about \$1,817, so that no person pays more than that in medical care in a given year.

Higher education is also free in Norway, as there are no tuition fees for students, even if they are not Norwegian citizens. When we visited Tromsø—home to the northernmost university on the planet—my students befriended an Italian graduate student taking advantage of Norway's benefits.

And the Government Pension Fund of Norway, which is financed by the country's oil profits and will provide for future generations of Norwegians, is currently worth more than \$1 trillion (about \$190,000 per Norwegian citizen).

Many of these perks of Norwegian life come with a cost: Norwegians pay more in taxes than most Americans, yet this doesn't seem to bother them. According to the World Happiness Report 2017, Norwegians are the happiest people in the world.

Dana Hill is a clinical associate professor of law at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. She wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

US should take small steps toward peace with North Korea

SEATTLE—Conflict between the United States and North Korea seems to defy solution, but that needn't be the case.

Linda Lewis, who has studied the Korean Peninsula for decades and works with North Koreans regularly, believes that sometimes the path to peace starts with small things—interactions that help people get to know each other and build trust, opportunities to solve everyday problems and discover that it's possible to work together.

The long enmity between the two countries has devolved into nuclear threats. That false alarm of missiles headed for Hawaii emphasized how believable such an attack has become. We desperately need to step back from that insanity.

"The Korean War is not over," Lewis said. "I think Americans lose sight of that." The fighting has been on pause since the 1953 armistice, but the antagonists haven't gotten to real peace yet.

Lewis and her husband recently moved to Redmond, Wash., where he has family. Until October they'd lived for seven years in Dalian, China, from where she ran an agricultural-assistance program in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as the China/DPRK country representative for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker outreach organization. She now runs the program from here.

Lewis is neither a farmer nor a Quaker but a Korea scholar who shares the values that Quaker international work is built on. Quakers stress the common humanity of all people and "the power of love to overcome violence and injustice."

Her own interest began when she was a junior in high school. Her father, a chemistry professor, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and took the family to spend a year in India. The

program was created to foster connections and understanding between Americans and people in other countries.

Lewis loved learning about people in another culture and decided she wanted to keep doing that. She spent four years, starting in 1970, as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea and later earned a doctorate from Columbia University. In 1985, she began a long career teaching, most of it at Wittenberg University in Ohio, where she was a professor of anthropology and director of the East Asian studies program. She taught at the University of Washington as a visiting scholar in 1993.

Lewis joined the Quaker program in 2010 because she was impressed that AFSC focuses on places where trouble seems most intractable, Korea among them. (American nongovernmental organizations can't be based in North Korea, but Lewis has made 15 visits to the country and meets regularly in China with North Korean partners.)

When I spoke with Lewis on Tuesday, she said engagement and normalization of relations between the United States and North Korea is our best hope for peace.

"Korea remains the last Cold War outpost," she said. The Germans are united, the Soviet Union is gone, but we are still facing off across the 38th parallel. Sanctions and threats have only maintained the decades-long insecurity.

The American Friends Service Committee believes getting the United States to take some small steps is the key to improving circumstances on the Peninsula. Lewis cited a quotation from former South African president Nelson Mandela: "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

By JERRY LARGE

The Seattle Times



She said there are steps the United States could take on several issues: It could work to restart a program to find and return the remains of U.S. soldiers lost in the North during the fighting, to help reunite families that were divided when people were displaced from the North, and to allow people-to-people exchanges, for instance in sports and the sciences.

Meanwhile, AFSC continues its agricultural work because food is a crucial need in the North. The AFSC helped several farms build greenhouses to protect plants from the cold, and it is training farmers to use sustainable-farming techniques that will preserve soil quality.

She said the farmers there, like farmers elsewhere, tend to be conservative, reluctant to adopt new methods because so much is at stake. It takes a little convincing for them to take a risk at first. The work helps people feed themselves as it establishes trust and relationships that might someday contribute to a peaceful resolution of more difficult problems.

The only course of action that makes sense is to build, bit by bit, toward peace.

Trump shouldn't crow too loud about tax cuts yet

The almost daily announcements sound impressive and generous.

American Airlines, AT&T, Bank of America and Comcast are giving their workers \$1,000 bonuses. Since President Donald Trump signed the sweeping tax cuts that slashed what corporations pay, dozens of companies have announced payments to employees. Last week, Fiat Chrysler said it will hand out \$2,000 bonuses and add 2,500 jobs in Michigan.

And Wednesday, Apple said that it would hire 20,000 more workers, build another campus and spend \$350 billion in the next five years, including \$75 million in profits it has been stashing offshore.

Trump and Republican leaders in Congress are boasting that their tax bill is already paying off big time for American workers.

"I promised that my policies would allow companies like Apple to bring massive amounts of money back to the United States," Trump tweeted Wednesday. "Great to see Apple follow through as a result of TAX CUTS. Huge win for American work-

ers and the USA!"

The tax reform permanently reduces the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. Also, money that companies bring back from overseas this year will be taxed at 15.5 percent.

I have criticized the tax cuts as mostly a giveaway to the rich and to corporations. I'm more than willing to admit if I'm wrong. But here's the thing: All of these bonuses could be fool's gold.

They will certainly help workers in the short term. For many families, they are more than "crumbs," as top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco described them.

But what about the long haul? Will employees get another round of bonuses next year, or is this a one-time thing?

Analysts point out that it would be much better for workers if they received permanent raises. They also note that what companies are handing out in bonuses is small potatoes compared to the windfall for corporations — about \$1 trillion of the \$1.5 trillion in tax savings over 10 years. Some say the bonuses are more a public relations ploy — and even a way to get on Trump's good side.

By FOON RHEE

The Sacramento Bee



I'll be far more impressed if lots of companies hire many more workers and pay them more and all of this progress lasts.

But I fear the bottom line could be more like Walmart. It announced last week it is giving bonuses of as much as \$1,000 and raising its starting pay to \$11 an hour. But the very same day, the retail giant also said it is closing 63 Sam's Club stores.

Funny, Trump didn't take to Twitter to brag about that.

While we waste food, others waste away

By JOCELYN CHANG

THE BALTIMORE SUN

At school and company cafeterias, we pile up our plates with all the most attractive looking foods. Sometimes we overestimate our stomach capacities and, too stuffed to finish the leftovers, scrape the remainder into the trash. Over the course of just a few weeks, the amount of food we've wasted overall as a cohort of students and workers is startling. Imagine such wasted food accumulating in every cafeteria in every university and every company. Imagine such wasted food building up in the kitchens of restaurants and cafes, along with the expired food products in grocery store aisles and home refrigerators and pantries. While wasted food accrues, 11.3 percent of the world's population suffers from hunger and undernourishment. In Baltimore, nearly a quarter of the population is food insecure.

If we were to collect all the wasted food in the world and redistribute it, we would be capable of feeding every hungry person in the world three times over. The quantity of food we throw out is monstrous: At the consumer level, nearly a third of untouched household food is trashed. That's comparable to purchasing three bags of groceries at Giant but only eating two of them. We might as well leave the third bag at the checkout counter and save ourselves the effort of bringing it home to store and inevitably discard.

Where does discarded food end up? After a sorting process, food scraps are trucked, dumped, and compacted in landfills. In fact, wasted food accounts for 20 percent of all the waste sent

to landfills. Not only does wasted food exacerbate the issue of limited landfill space, but the decomposition of organic material in landfills by bacteria also produces methane, intensifying environmental and climate change problems. We're killing the world by a trash apocalypse.

In addressing hunger, the issues, then, do not seem to be the lack of production of food as much as the inability to access food already produced. A partial solution may involve saving and efficiently re-distributing excess food. In doing so, we would simultaneously reduce global environmental pollution while helping to address food deprivation. Individually, we can reduce wasted food through small changes: serving ourselves smaller portions, sharing larger orders or bringing leftovers home, using shopping lists, only buying the necessary items and taking note of expiration and "sell-by" dates.

Donating to food banks is also an option for unused food products. Investing in organizations that recover and distribute food to those who have a need for it locally and internationally—such as Feeding America, the Food Recovery Network, DC Central Kitchen, Campus Kitchens, and the World Food Program—is a step in the right direction. In Baltimore, many stores in the Giant supermarket chain give unsold frozen meats to the Maryland Food Bank. By altering the ways we handle our excess food, wasted food can be diverted and used instead to help feed the millions of people who can't live their lives to the fullest because of hunger and undernourishment.

Yet it is often not feasible to divert all wasted food to feed people, or even in their best interests. First, donations are accompanied by distribution limitations and cannot target all those with

food insecurity. Second, relying on food donations alone may create a lack of food choice and food quality, which would subtract from the dignity of food assistance. Perhaps we can further encourage food pantries by offering financial support, providing the pantries with the leverage to purchase and provide a greater variety of high quality, nourishing foods for food pantry clients.

Although the prevention and redistribution of wasted food to reduce hunger isn't an all-encompassing solution, and cannot replace longer-term measures addressing poverty, it may help to reduce food insecurity for the short-term. It is therefore time for each of us to step up to the plate and play our individual role in helping to take food insecurity into our own hands.

Jocelyn Chang is a clinical research assistant at Johns Hopkins Medicine. She wrote this for The Baltimore Sun.

MISSILE

From Page 10






though, this might be a good time to review specific emergency warning protocols here in Texas.

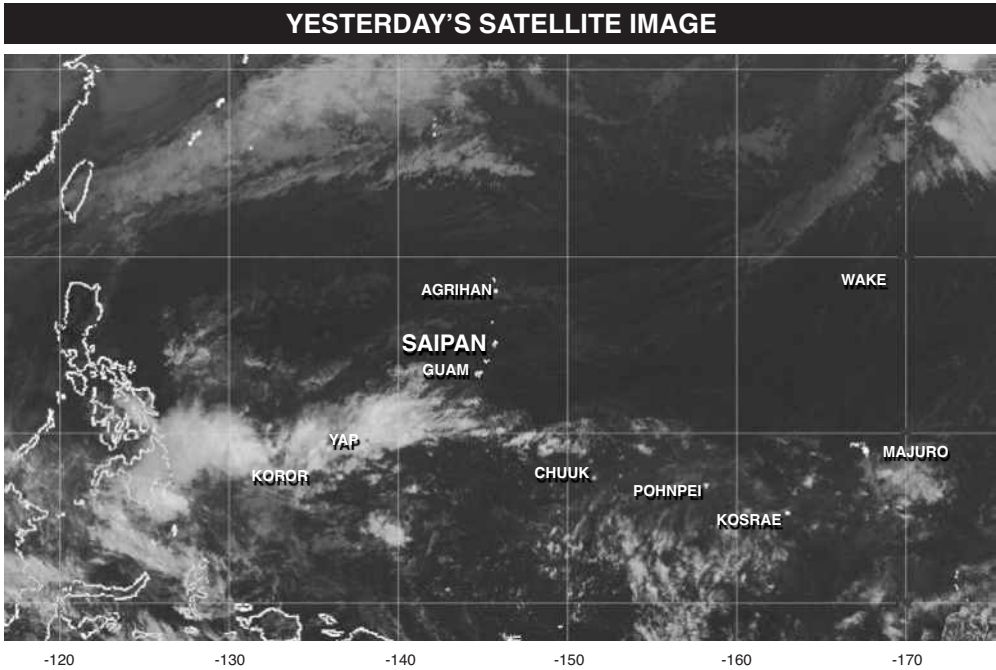
The Texas Division of Emergency Management tells us today that it doesn't issue direct wireless alerts. But that's no reason to avoid serious and ongoing review.

It's one thing to contemplate the unimaginable. It's another to be told the unimaginable is here.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°



PICTURE TIME: 2:16 PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Weather observation indicate frequent gust across the Marianas to between 25 and 30 knts. Also ASCAT data shows winds over the area high enough to produce small craft winds. Seas may also approach small craft levels in parts of the Marianas waters. Models show the winds decreasing quickly but should remain high enough until at least midnight. Dry conditions and gusty winds today and tomorrow will cause increased fire danger. Except for spotty showers, drier weather has been developing over the Marianas since late December. Trade winds will be fresh to locally strong and gusty, especially over and near the southern mountains. Gusty winds will increase the difficulty in controlling any fires that may develop.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	30° / 10°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
London	Showers	55° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 57°
Miami	Thunderstorms	77° / 67°
New York	Showers	57° / 37°
Osaka	Windy	37° / 28°
Paris	Showers	54° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	32° / 14°
Rome	Sunny	61° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	59° / 34°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	54° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	16° / 3°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	41° / 23°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	60° / 37°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:25 AM	LOW TIDE	0.23
12:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
6:39 PM	LOW TIDE	0.77
11:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.48

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:51 AM	11:15 PM	-
Wednesday	11:32 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:08 AM	12:16 PM
Friday	-	1:03 AM	1:03 PM
Saturday	-	2:01 AM	1:54 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)		GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN	
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)		GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)		ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN	
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)		NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN	
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN	
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN	
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN	
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)		HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN	
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)		GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN	
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)		HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN	
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SIS holds its first Wine Tasting Gala

The inaugural Wine Tasting Gala fundraiser for Saipan International School was held on Friday night, Jan. 12, at the poolside of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The event featured Beringer wines distributed by Pacific Trading Co.

Funds earned from this event will go to several much-needed improvement projects for the school, including an updated fire alarm system and a remodeling of its elementary school library.

The school hopes to make this an annual event.

In an email from the school's headmaster, Ronald E. Snyder, he said the event would not have been possible without the "generous support of local sponsors, those that bought tickets, our parent volunteers, our main organizers Tina Goodwin, Angie Mister, and Mili Saiki, and the staff and management at the Hyatt Regency and Pacific Trading Co."

SIS, located in As Lito, is accredited by the Western As-



sociation of Schools and Colleges and is the first and only

school in Micronesia to be authorized by College Board to

offer the Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma.

Among the sponsors that donated to the event were Aces Tennis Academy, BFJ Corp. (Fine Wine, Spirits and Cigars), Brabu Pharmacy, Brother's Clinic, BSEA, Dan Bi Choi LLC, Docomo Pacific, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Godfather's, Gold's Gym Saipan, Green Flash Dive Shop, Hardt Eye Clinic, Himawari, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Island Turtle Tour, IT&E, Imperial Pacific, JP World, Jung Hee Kim, Kanoa Resort, Kensington, Let's Go ATV, Lollipops, Lydia Tan, Mariana Breeze, Mariana Resort & Spa, Monika's, Natural Nail Spa, Pacific Trading Co., Pacifica Insurance, Pro-Tech, Saipan Sea Venture, Seatouch, Skydive Saipan, Smile Marianas, Spicy Thai, Sawadee Thai Massage, The Water Company, Triple J Wholesale, Union of Professionals, Wing's Corp., and Wireless Ridge Landscaping. *(Saipan Tribune)*



CUC employee arrested for alleged domestic violence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An employee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power division was arrested yesterday for allegedly beating up his girlfriend after her birthday party at their home in Dandan.

Jose Olopai Rabauliman, 41, was hauled to court for a bail hearing on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the original \$10,000 cash bail that Associate Judge

Wesley Bogdan had earlier imposed on Rabauliman.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 29 at 1:30pm.

Police officer Jenny Rose A. Butalon stated in her report that she responded yesterday at 1:27am to a domestic violence call made by the victim, who was at the Dandan baseball field.

Butalon said the victim's eyes were red and puffy and her face was swollen.

Butalon said that, according to the victim, Rabauliman punched her in the chest twice and her head several times.

The victim told police that

she is scared for her safety and their children.

A police officer arrested Rabauliman at 2:16am.

In 2000, a jury convicted Rabauliman of kidnapping, rape, and assault and battery of two women on the morning of March 28, 1998. Three other co-defendants were also convicted. Rabauliman was sentenced in May 2000 to 30 years of imprisonment.

Rabauliman appealed, but the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed his conviction and subsequent sentencing. He was reportedly released on parole in 2008.

Volunteers turn up for homeless count

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The homeless coalition has successfully recruited enough volunteers for its upcoming point-in-time count.

Last Friday, over 30 attended the Commonwealth Homeless Coalition's orientation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The orientation briefed the volunteers on the basics of the count and its purpose. Many of the volunteers who joined the orientation were volunteers from the previous count, but there were also new faces.

According to coalition member Zenie Mafnas, the count opens up doors for the CNMI to further assist individuals who are in need of housing.

The point-in-time count brings the coalition a step

closer to achieving their goal, which is to aid in the elimination of homelessness in the next five years.

The Continuum of Care grant that the coalition is aiming for would give the coalition's lead agency, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., close to \$1 million.

According to Mafnas' presentation, if the coalition is approved for the COC grant, a huge chunk of the grant would go to the improvement of the Guma Esperansa that doubles as the center that aids the homeless or those at risk of homelessness by giving them an opportunity to regain control of their situation.

According to NMHC environmental officer Jacob Muña, the coalition is still looking for sponsors to donate amenities that will be

given out to the homeless during the count, and for volunteers to conduct the count and give out surveys.

Muna said the last homeless count did not give them the result they were hoping for, which was a grant approval, but they are determined to continue the count as an annual event and continue to apply for the grant.

The coalition is a non-profit group under NMHC that aims to lower the number of homeless people in the Marianas.

The count will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27, starting at 5am. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided for the volunteers, as well as transportation and gas vouchers.

Interested volunteers and sponsors can contact Muña at 234-7670 or email him at jj-muna@nmhc.gov.mp.

Business

Long shutdown could hurt economy, a short one just 'a blip'

By TOM KRISHER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

If the shutdown lasts just days or even a couple of weeks, the robust stock market that President Donald Trump has boasted about probably will emerge unscathed. A longer impasse, economists say, could rattle consumer and investor confidence, pulling stocks lower and dragging down the economy.

Economists and investment advisers interviewed by The Associated Press generally didn't foresee the shutdown that began Saturday lasting long enough to stifle the economy much. With pivotal elections in November, both parties would want to shield voters from any pain. Investors and consumers are feeling optimistic now based on the tax cut signed into law last month, and the economy is strong enough to power through a short shutdown.

But Randy Warren, CEO of Warren Financial Service, a Philadelphia-area investment advisory firm, said shutdown that drags on for six weeks or longer—an unimaginable scenario—could kill a bull market and discourage people from spending money. "These things start to pile up," he said Saturday. "When you start to doubt the future, then you start to doubt investing."

And that's among the reasons Warren and others don't see a lengthy stalemate.

"It seems unlikely at this



AP
Visitors look through the glass door of the Library of Congress closed due the shut down of the government on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, at the Capitol in Washington.

After the 16-day government shutdown in October 2013, the Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated that it trimmed an annualized 0.3 percent from growth during the final three months of that year. The reduced growth was mostly because federal employees worked fewer hours.

Leslie Preston, a senior economist at TD Bank, said the economy is currently "strong enough to withstand" a similarly sized hit because growth is projected to be nearly 2.5 percent in the January-March quarter.

point that it would be a four-week shutdown," said Beth Ann Bovino, chief U.S. economist at Standard & Poor's. "It will hopefully be a blip."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index and Nasdaq composite closed at record highs Friday. The Russell 2000 index, composed of smaller, more domestically-focused companies, climbed more than 1 percent and also finished at a record high.

"Unless it meaningfully impacts the U.S. consumer and leads them to spend much less money, leading to some kind of major (economic) slowdown, it's not a big deal," said Sameer Samana,

global equity and technical strategist for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

The economy could take a hit if national parks and monuments are closed or operations curtailed for a long period. Trips could be canceled, cutting vacation dollars that roll into communities near the parks. The Interior Department pledged to keep as many parks and public lands open as possible, but the pattern on Saturday was spotty. Some parks such as Yellowstone and Yosemite were open with limited services, but the Statue of Liberty in New York and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia were closed.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank says executive is gone; no comment on harassment probe

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank of America has confirmed that a high-profile senior executive has left the company, but it would not comment on reports of an internal investigation into sexual harassment allegations. Omeed Malik is no longer a bank employee, spokesman Bill Halldin said Saturday in an email. Malik's departure was effective the week of Jan. 8, Halldin said, declining to comment further. The New York Times reported Friday that Malik, who was a managing director and helped to run the brokerage business that raises money for investment funds, left after a female analyst complained of inappropriate sexual conduct in the past few weeks. The human resources office for Bank of America Corp., which is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, began inves-

tigating and interviewed as many as a dozen people who worked with Malik, the newspaper said, citing unidentified people at the bank who were briefed on the investigation but were not authorized to speak publicly. Malik's departure comes as sexual harassment and assault allegations have rolled through media companies, Hollywood and Silicon Valley.

Amazon to debut cashier-less store in downtown Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—Amazon employees have been testing it, but is the public ready for a cashier-less store? More than a year after it introduced the concept, Amazon is opening its artificial intelligence-powered Amazon Go store in downtown Seattle on Monday. The store on the bottom floor of the company's Seattle headquarters allows shoppers to scan their smartphone

with the Amazon Go app at a turnstile, pick out the items they want and leave. By combining computer vision, machine learning algorithms and sensors, the online retail giant can tell what people have purchased and charges their Amazon account. If someone puts an item back, they aren't charged. The store is not without employees—Amazon says there will be people there making food, stocking shelves and helping customers. The store will offer ready-to-eat breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and snacks, as well as some grocery staples like bread, milk, cheese and chocolates. It'll also have Amazon Meal Kits. At about 1,800 square feet, the Amazon Go store adds to the company's growing physical store presence and its expansion into groceries after its purchase last year of organic grocer Whole Foods and its 470 stores.

What to do when your boss is stealing

Q: I strongly suspect that my boss is stealing from our employer. As the property manager for this apartment complex, she handles all payments, deposits and other financial matters.

A few weeks ago, I accidentally discovered some suspicious discrepancies in our banking transactions. Since then, I have documented my findings and made copies of the records. I feel this should be reported to someone, but I don't know where to go. What would you advise?

A: Assuming that the evidence clearly suggests wrongdoing, reporting these findings is probably a good idea. If your boss is engaged in shady activities, you don't want to risk being implicated when her shenanigans are discovered.

First, you need to determine who owns this complex. If that isn't obvious from your paycheck or other internal documents, try checking tax records, business licenses or corporate registrations. If the owner is an individual, he or she would obviously be the person to contact.

Things become a bit more complicated if the property belongs to a large corporation. Some companies provide a hotline for reporting ethical and legal issues. Lacking that option, you might find an appropriate contact in human resources, internal audit or the legal department.

Next, you must decide whether to present this information yourself or use an intermediary. If you fear retri-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



sals or anticipate a negative reaction, consider asking an attorney to deliver the news. The reduced risk and guaranteed confidentiality might be worth the cost.

Either way, when discussing this situation, stay focused on the facts. Don't speculate about your boss's actions or accuse her of criminal activity. Simply describe your discovery and share your documentation. After that, this matter will be completely out of your hands.

Q: My manager wrote the following comments on my performance appraisal: "As a supervisor, Joann is knowledgeable and conscientious. However, she spends so much time reviewing her employees' work that she is falling behind on important tasks. Joann has great potential as a manager, but she needs to develop more trust in her staff."

I'm not sure what this means, but I was nervous about asking questions during my review. Should I discuss this with her now?

A: Your boss apparently feels that while you have many strengths, you also have certain traits which

might impede your supervisory success. But by using fuzzy language — like "develop more trust" — she has unfortunately failed to clearly convey expectations.

To change her perceptions and improve your evaluation, you definitely need more information. Without arguing or becoming defensive, let her know that you got the message and then request some clarification.

For example: "Since my appraisal, I've been thinking about how I could be a better supervisor. I understand that I need to be more trusting, but I would like to set some specific goals. Could we discuss exactly what I might do differently to become more effective?"

Continue to ask clarifying questions until you have a clear plan of action. For instance, which tasks require more of your attention? How could your employees become more independent? What could you do to demonstrate trust?

Finally, schedule some ongoing feedback sessions to get your manager's view of progress. That way, your next appraisal discussion should be free of confusing surprises.

Nation

Deportation fears have legal immigrants avoiding health care

MIAMI (AP)—The number of legal immigrants from Latin American nations who access public health services and enroll in federally subsidized insurance plans has dipped substantially since President Donald Trump took office, many of them fearing their information could be used to identify and deport relatives living in the U.S. illegally, according to health advocates across the country.

Trump based his campaign on promises to stop illegal immigration and deport any immigrants in the country illegally, but many legal residents and U.S. citizens are losing their health care as a result, advocates say.

After Trump became president a year ago, “every single day families canceled” their Medicaid plans and “people really didn’t access any of our programs,” said Daniel Bouton, a director at the Community Council, a Dallas nonprofit that specializes in health care enrollment for low-income families.

The trend stabilized a bit



AP
In this Dec. 27, 2017, photo, Community Council health care navigator Fidel Castro Hernandez, center, listens to legal U.S. resident Maria Ana Pina, left, as she signs up for the Affordable Care Act with her son Roberto Pina at the Community Council offices in Dallas.

as the year went on, but it remains clear that the increasingly polarized immigration debate is having a chilling effect on Hispanic participation in health care programs, particularly during the enrollment

season that ended in December.

Bouton’s organization has helped a 52-year-old housekeeper from Mexico, a legal resident, sign up for federally subsidized health insurance for two years. But now she’s going without, fearing immigration officials will use her enrollment to track down her husband, who is in the country illegally. She’s also considering not re-enrolling their children, 15 and 18, in the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, even though they were born in the U.S.

“We’re afraid of maybe

getting sick or getting into an accident, but the fear of my husband being deported is bigger,” the woman, who declined to give their names for fear her husband could be deported, said through a translator in a telephone interview.

Hispanic immigrants are not only declining to sign up for health care under programs that began or expanded under Barack Obama’s presidency -- they’re also not seeking treatment when they’re sick, Bouton and others say.

“One social worker said she had a client who was forgoing chemotherapy because she

had a child that was not here legally,” said Oscar Gomez, CEO of Health Outreach Partner, a national training and advocacy organization.

My Health LA provides primary care services in Los Angeles County to low-income residents and those who lack the documents to make them eligible for publicly funded health care coverage programs, such as state Medicaid. According to its annual report, 189,410 participants enrolled in the program during Fiscal Year 2017, but 44,252, or about 23 percent, later disenrolled. It’s not clear how many

of those who dropped out are Hispanic; the report did not describe ethnicity.

Enticing Hispanics to take advantage of subsidized health care has been a struggle that began long before Trump’s presidency.

Hispanics are more than three times as likely to go without health insurance as are their white counterparts, according to a 2015 study by Pew Research Center. Whites represented 63 percent, or 3.8 million, of those who signed up for Affordable Care Act plans last year compared to 15 percent, or just under a million, Hispanics, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The reasons vary, but some have always feared deportation, regardless of who is in office.

Recent events have not helped. Despite initial signs of a compromise agreement, Trump now isn’t supporting a deal to support young people who identified themselves to the federal government so that they could qualify for protections against deportation despite being brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Trump’s attempts to show voter fraud appear to have stalled

ATLANTA (AP)—President Donald Trump hasn’t backed away from his unsubstantiated claim that millions of illegally cast ballots cost him the popular vote in 2016, but his efforts to investigate it appear to have stalled.

He transferred the work of the commission investigating his claim to the Department of Homeland Security. This week, the department’s top official made it clear that, when it comes to elections, her focus is on safeguarding state and local voting systems from cyberattacks and other manipulation.

While the U.S. Department of Justice has broad authority to investigate voter fraud claims, White House officials said previously that Homeland Security was the best agency to take over the work of the now-disbanded Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. A Justice Department official declined comment this week on whether the agency was conducting any reviews related to voter fraud, but confirmed that no voter data collected by the commission, nor analysis of the data, was given to the agency before the commission was disbanded.

The end of the commission is welcome news to voting rights advocates concerned

that its ultimate goal was to promote voter-suppression efforts. They and numerous state election officials were alarmed when the commission issued a broad request to states last spring for detailed information on their voters, including partial Social Security numbers, dates of birth, addresses and voting history.

“The commission was an unprecedented attempt to make it harder for ordinary Americans to vote and have their voices heard,” said Kristen Clarke, head of the Lawyers’ Committee on Civil Rights, which sued alleging the commission violated laws requiring transparency. “In the end, it was a monumental failure on the part of this administration and makes clear that this is an administration that does not place a premium on the right to vote.”

An Associated Press tally showed that 15 states and the District of Columbia refused to turn over the voter data, many citing privacy concerns, and a handful of others had yet to decide by the time Trump ended the commission. Some of the states that pushed back against the commission’s request for voter data were Republican-leaning, including North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wyoming.

Women’s marches organizers hope to keep building momentum

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Thousands of people poured into a football stadium in Las Vegas on Sunday, the anniversary of women’s marches around the world, to cap off a weekend of global demonstrations that participants hope will continue building momentum for equality, justice and an end to sexual harassment.

“This is a birthday party for a movement that has only begun to flex its power to change this democracy,” Anna Galland, the executive director of the progressive group moveon.org, told the boisterous crowd.

Following marches that drew huge crowds across the U.S. on Saturday, one year after President Donald Trump’s inauguration, protesters gathered Sunday on multiple continents, including in London, Paris, Sydney, Madrid and Buenos Aires.

The events culminated with the Las Vegas rally, which launched an effort to register 1 million voters and target

swing states such as Nevada in the U.S. midterm elections later this year, which could shift control of Congress. Organizers said they are planning future events in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas.

Paula Beaty, 53, a tech worker from Durham, North Carolina, attended the Las Vegas rally wearing an outfit recalling the women’s suffrage movement of the early 20th century. She cited the difference women made in helping Democrat Doug Jones upset conservative Republican Roy Moore for a Senate seat in Alabama in December.

“For us it’s all about women’s rights and we’re seeing them be eroded with Trump in office,” Beaty said. “The women made a difference in Alabama and we’re hoping we can flip the House and Senate with the power of women.”

There was also a push for women to not just register as voters, but as candidates. Democratic Idaho state Rep. Paulette Jordan, a member of

the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, drew an immense cheer when she told the crowd she was running to be not only Idaho’s first female governor, but the first Native American woman to be governor in any state. She implored other women to join her in running for office.

“This is Idaho’s future. This is the future of America,” she said.

The demonstrations came at a time of reckoning for many men in Hollywood, the media and other industries as women speak out about sexual misconduct and inequity in general. Among the speakers in Las Vegas was singer and actress Cher.

“This is one of the worst times in our history and that’s why I honestly believe that women are going to be the ones that fix it,” Cher told the crowd. “Stay strong and remember if you don’t have a vote, you don’t have a voice.”

Those who took part in this year’s events said they were galvanized by an avalanche

of political and gender issues over the past year, as well as the #MeToo movement, which has been credited with countering widespread sexual abuse and misconduct.

Many of the marchers not only supported women’s rights, but also denounced Trump’s views on issues including immigration, abortion and LGBT rights. Demonstrators denounced Trump’s views with colorful signs and even saltier language.

Trump dismissed the suggestion that his presidency has been bad for women. He tweeted Saturday that it was a “perfect day” for women to march to celebrate the “economic success and wealth creation” of his first year in office.

“Get out there now to celebrate the historic milestones and unprecedented economic success and wealth creation that has taken place over the last 12 months,” the Republican wrote. “Lowest female unemployment in 18 years!”

Asia

S. Koreans burn Kim's photo as N. Korean band leader passes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Dozens of conservative activists attempted to burn a large photo of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as the head of the North's extremely popular girl band passed by them at a Seoul railway station Monday following a visit to potential venues for performances during next month's Winter Olympics.

Hyon Song Wol, a Pyongyang celebrity who heads the all-female Moranbong Band hand-picked by Kim, began a two-day visit on Sunday, triggering media frenzy in South Korea about the woman who is also in charge of the North's first artistic performances in South Korea since 2002.

After her visits to the eastern city of Gangneung, Hyon arrived back Monday morning at the Seoul railway station where she saw about 150 to 200 activists rallying against her visit and recent inter-Korean rapprochement deals. "Pyeongchang Olympics? We oppose Kim Jong Un's Pyongyang Olympics," they chanted referring to the North Korean capital.

Hyon saw the activists but did not react. After she left the scene, the demonstrators used a blowtorch to burn Kim's photo, a North Korean flag and a "unification flag" that athletes of the rival Koreas plan to carry during the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Police used fire extinguishers to quench the fire,



South Korean protesters burn a portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a rally against a visit of North Korean Hyon Song Wol, head of a North Korean art troupe, in front of Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

but the activists later stamped on Kim's photo and the flags and burned them.

Seoul police plan to investigate the protesters, according to Yonhap news agency.

Hyon's arrival has made her the subject of intense South Korean media attention, with photographers following her every move and TV stations aggressively reporting not only her career and band but also her fox-fur muffler, boots and facial expressions.

South Korea's government sees North Korea's participation in the Games—both in sporting events and cultural exchanges—as a way to calm tensions caused by Pyongyang's recent nuclear and missile tests and war of words with the United States. The two Koreas agreed to field their first unified Olympic team, in women's hockey, and have their athletes march together under the "unification flag" depicting their peninsula during

the Feb. 9 opening ceremony.

Some of the Olympic proposals like a unified hockey team and the use of the joint flag have caused a heated debate in South Korea, reflecting changes in public views toward North Korea which has been rapidly expanding its nuclear and missile arsenals in recent years.

The current mood of reconciliation between the Koreas flared after North Korea's Kim abruptly expressed his willingness to improve ties and send

PH says it won't be embroiled in US-China sea spat

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines said Sunday that it won't get embroiled in a fresh spat between the U.S. and China involving Beijing's protest of an American warship passing near a Chinese-controlled shoal also claimed by the Philippines.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said that "the United States can take care of its own interest" and added "we do not wish to be part of a U.S.-China intramural" in the disputed South China Sea.

The Chinese government on Saturday accused the U.S. of trespassing in its territorial waters when a U.S. guided missile destroyer sailed near Scarborough Shoal to promote freedom of navigation in the disputed waters.

The Philippines also claims the shoal, which is a tiny, uninhabited reef that China seized from the Philippines in 2012 after a tense maritime standoff.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has revived once-frosty relations with China since taking power in 2016 and often

criticizes U.S. security policies. He has rejected planned joint patrols by the U.S. and Philippine navies in disputed South China Sea waters along with joint combat exercises that could offend China.

His predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, backed a continued U.S. presence in the region to serve as a counterweight to China.

Under Aquino, the Philippines brought its disputes with China in the South China Sea to international arbitration in 2013 and overwhelmingly won the case three years later. China refused to participate and ignored the decision.

Duterte has refused to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the 2016 arbitration ruling, which invalidated China's vast territorial claims to the South China Sea on historical grounds. He has promised, however, to take up the arbitration ruling with China at a still-unspecified time during his six-year presidency.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and

has carried out extensive land reclamation work on many of the islands and reefs it claims, equipping some with air strips and military installations that have alarmed rival claimant countries and Western governments led by the United States.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Saturday that China would take "necessary measures" to protect its sovereignty after the USS Hopper sailed within 12 nautical miles of Scarborough Shoal on Wednesday evening without China's permission.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the U.S., Manila's treaty ally, did not notify the Philippines of its naval operation near Scarborough.

"We have no say over whatever the Americans do in the South China Sea. They do not inform us beforehand of their activities there," Lorenzana said.

Asked if the passage of the U.S. warship in Philippine-claimed waters was a concern, Lorenzana said: "No, for as long as they are on innocent passage. International law allows innocent passage even

in territorial waters."

The United States does not claim territory in the South China Sea but has declared it has a national interest in ensuring that the territorial disputes there are resolved peacefully in accordance with international law.

The U.S. Navy regularly sails through the area to assert freedom of navigation.

Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet, said Saturday that such operations are "not about any one country, nor are they about making political statements." Instead they aim to "demonstrate our commitment to uphold the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations under international law."

Scarborough is known in Chinese as Huangyan Island and called Panatag or Bajo de Masinloc by the Philippines. It lies about 200 kilometers (120 miles) west of the main Philippine island of Luzon, and about 600 kilometers (370 miles) southeast of China.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tokyo holds evacuation drill to prepare for N. Korean threat

TOKYO (AP)—More than 300 people have participated in an evacuation drill in Tokyo under the scenario of an incoming North Korean ballistic missile. The drill was held at the Tokyo Dome amusement park, a subway station and a community center downtown. Loudspeakers warned that Monday's activities involved a scenario of a missile attack and urged people to shelter indoors or go underground. At the amusement park, operators immediately stopped the rides. Some of the 200 employees who were pretending to be park visitors left picnic tables and rides and calmly marched to a basement. Similar drills have been conducted elsewhere in Japan since last year amid threats from North Korea. Monday's the first missile evacuation drill in Tokyo.

Vietnam jails former oil execs in high-profile graft case

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A former oil executive has been sentenced to life in prison and a former high-ranking Vietnamese government official has received a lengthy prison term in a major corruption case. The court in the capital Hanoi sentenced former Politburo member Dinh La Thang, ex-chairman of state energy giant Petro-Vietnam, to 13 years in jail

for deliberate economic mismanagement Monday as the two-week trial concluded. Thang was the first Politburo member to be jailed in decades. Trinh Xuan Thanh, an ex-chairman of PetroVietnam's construction arm, was given life imprisonment for embezzlement. Germany accuses Vietnam agents of snatching him from a Berlin park last year. The two were among 22 defendants, most of them current or former oil executives. Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted a Judge as saying the prosecutions were well-founded.

Bombing at market in southern Thailand kills 3, injures 18

BANGKOK (AP)—Police say three people have been killed and 18 injured by a bomb that exploded in a market in southern Thailand. Police Lt. Eakapong Rattana-chai said an attacker parked a motorcycle rigged with explosives near the market and bought goods there to blend in with the crowd Monday morning. Eakapong said the motorcycle bomb exploded when the attacker left the market area, killing three and injuring 18. It happened in Yala province, one of Thailand's three southernmost provinces where Muslim militants have waged a yearslong insurgency. The three provinces are the only ones with Muslim majorities in the predominantly Buddhist country. More than 6,500 people have been killed in the violence since 2004.

World

Turkish troops enter Kurdish enclave in northern Syria

HASSA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish troops and Syrian opposition forces attacked a Kurdish enclave in northern Syria on Sunday in their bid to oust from the area a U.S.-allied Kurdish militia, which responded with a hail of rockets on Turkish towns killing at least one refugee.

The Turkish offensive on Afrin, codenamed Operation Olive Branch, started Saturday and has heightened tensions in the already complicated Syrian conflict, threatening to further strain ties between NATO allies Turkey and the United States.

On Sunday, the United States urged Turkey to exercise restraint and ensure that the offensive is “limited in scope and duration.” A statement by State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert also asked Turkey to be “scrupulous to avoid civilian casualties,” adding that all parties involved in Syria should focus on defeating the Islamic State group.

The Syrian government, Iran and Egypt condemned the attack, which activists said has killed at least 18 civilians in the Kurdish-held enclave, Afrin, in the first 24 hours. Turkish officials say 11 rockets launched from Syria have landed in Turkish towns along the border, kill-



Turkish Army officers block the outskirts of the village of Sugedigi, Turkey, on the border with Syria, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018. **AP**

ing at least one Syrian refugee and injuring 47.

France called for an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the developments there and urged Turkish authorities “to act with restraint in a context where the humanitarian situation is deteriorating

in several regions of Syria.”

Turkish officials said the troops entered Afrin a day after dozens of Turkish jets and artillery units at the border pounded Syrian Kurdish targets. A spokesman for the Kurdish fighters said the attack was repelled.

Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish militia, known as the People’s Protection Units, or YPG, a terror organization and a security threat because of its affiliation with Kurdish rebels fighting in southeastern Turkey.

The group controls Afrin, in Syria’s northwestern Aleppo

province, as well as nearly 25 percent of Syrian territory, to the east along Turkey’s border. The YPG also forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the main U.S. ally against the Islamic State group in Syria.

U.S. support for the Kurdish

militia has been a cause of perpetual conflict between Ankara and Washington, which has backed the Kurdish militia.

U.S. officials have said that the administration had appealed to Turkey not to go ahead with the offensive. A Turkish operation there could have an impact on U.S. operations further east in Syria, the officials said.

The operation, for which Turkey has also rallied nearly 10,000 Syrian opposition fighters, could spill into a wider Turkish-Kurdish confrontation inside Turkey. There is an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Kurdish fighters in the Afrin district, the Turkish prime minister said.

The operation also includes airstrikes on the district, threatening to create another humanitarian disaster in the region. The Afrin district houses no less than 800,000 civilians, including displaced people from earlier years of the Syrian war. Russia pulled back troops that had been deployed near Afrin after it was briefed on the operation by Turkey.

Kurdish officials said Russian military officials have proposed handing over Afrin to the Syrian government to avert a Turkey military offensive. They said they refused the proposal.

Droves fill pope’s final Mass in restive Latin America trip

LIMA, Peru (AP)—More than 1 million people turned out Sunday for Pope Francis’ final Mass in Peru, giving him a warm and heartfelt farewell that contrasted sharply with the outcry he caused in neighboring Chile by accusing sex abuse victims of slandering a bishop.

Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, who publicly rebuked the pope on Saturday for those remarks, joined the pontiff and dozens of fellow bishops on a tented altar at a Lima airfield to celebrate the Mass. The crowd of 1.3 million people reported by the Vatican was the largest of Francis’ week-long, two-nation visit.

Francis tried to move beyond the scandal Sunday, joking with cloistered nuns that they were taking advantage of his visit to finally get out and get a breath of fresh air. And he denounced a corruption scandal in Latin America that has even implicated his Peruvian host, President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, who recently survived an impeachment vote by lawmakers.

In his homily Francis referred to the “grave sin of corruption,” that kills the hope of people, urging Peruvians to have hope and show tenderness and compassion.

Thousands lined the streets as his black papal Fiat made its way to the airport, where a chil-

dren’s choir sang in farewell as Francis boarded a plane to head back to Rome.

Earlier in the day, he said the bribery scandal centered on Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht was “just a small anecdote” of the corruption and graft that have thrown much of Latin American politics into crisis.

“If we fall into the hands of people who only understand the language of corruption, we’re toast,” the pope said in unscripted remarks.

Francis was greeted by cheering crowds at nearly every stop of his Peru trip, but the cloud of sex abuse scandal trailed him.

“Francis, here there IS proof,” read a banner hanging from a Lima building along his motorcade route Sunday.

The message was a reference both to Peru’s own abuse scandal and to Francis’ Jan. 18 comments in Iquique, Chile, that there was not “one shred of proof” to allegations that a protégé of that country’s most notorious pedophile priest, the Rev. Fernando Karadima, knew of Karadima’s abuse and did nothing to stop it.

Karadima’s victims have accused the bishop, Juan Barros, of witnessing the abuse and of complicity in covering it up. Barros has denied the accusations, and Francis backed him by saying the victims’ claims

were “all calumny.”

Francis’ remarks that he would only believe victims with “proof” were problematic because they were already deemed so credible by the Vatican that it sentenced Karadima to a lifetime of “penance and prayer” in 2011 based on their testimony. A Chilean judge also found the victims to be credible, saying that while she had to drop charges against Karadima because too much time had passed, proof of his crimes wasn’t lacking. The pope’s comments sparked such an outcry that both O’Malley, Francis’ own top adviser on abuse, and the Chilean government made the highly rare decision to publicly rebuke him—an extraordinary correction of a pontiff from both church and state. The criticisms were all the more remarkable given that they came on the Argentina-born pontiff’s home turf in Latin America.

O’Malley said Saturday that Francis’ remarks were “a source of great pain for survivors of sexual abuse,” and that such expressions of disbelief made abuse survivors feel abandoned and left in “discredited exile.”

Chilean government spokeswoman Paula Narvaez said there was an “ethical imperative to respect victims of sexual abuse, believe them and support them.”

The issue also had resonance in Peru. Last week the Vatican took over a Peru-based Roman Catholic lay movement, Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, more than six years after first learning of sexual, physical and psychological abuse committed by its founder.

An independent investigation commissioned by the movement found that founder Luis Figari sodomized his recruits, forced them to fondle him and one another, liked to watch them “experience pain, discomfort and fear” and humiliated them in front of others. Figari’s victims have criticized the Vatican for its years of inaction and for eventually sanctioning him with what they consider a “golden exile”—retirement in Italy at a retreat house, albeit separated from the community he founded.

The banner hanging from the building along Francis’ motorcade route referred to evidence against Figari and featured a photo of him. Peruvian prosecutors recently announced they wanted to arrest him.

But for the most part, Peruvians welcomed him with open arms and flooded in huge droves to his final Mass. In contrast, Francis’ send-off from Chile drew only 50,000 people, a fraction of the number expected.

Yemeni deaths due to diphtheria likely to rise amid blockade

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Deaths resulting from a diphtheria outbreak in Yemen are “likely to rise” if the naval blockade imposed by a Saudi-led coalition fighting to defeat Shiite rebels in war-torn Yemen remains in place, an international aid group warned on Monday.

Save the Children said in a statement that Yemeni children are bearing the brunt of what it described as a “the worst diphtheria outbreak for a generation.” It also said that its aid workers have been struggling to cope with the disease which has killed at least 52 people, mostly among children under 15, and is believed to have infected some 716 others since August. Diphtheria is a contagious and potentially fatal disease that primarily infects the throat and airways.

There’s so little help right now that families are carrying their children for hundreds of miles to get to us,” Mariam Aldogani, the group’s field coordinator in Hodeida, said. “But they’re arriving too late and infecting people on the way.”

The outbreak has hit Ibb

and Hodeida provinces the hardest, the aid group said.

Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since March 2015, pitting Iran-backed Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, against the coalition backing the internationally recognized government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. The near three-year stalemated war in Yemen has damaged its infrastructure, crippled the health system and pushed the Arab world’s poorest country to the brink of famine.

The U.N. has called Yemen the world’s worst humanitarian crisis with more than 22 million people in need.

Save the Children said that aid efforts have been largely hampered due to the blockade on the key Red Sea port of Hodeida, a lifeline for most of Yemen’s population as it handles about 70 percent of the country’s imports. The Saudi-led coalition has imposed a blockade on Yemen since the beginning of the war but has recently eased it on ports allowing access for commercial vessels.

Focus

By JULHAS ALAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

D HAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Both Bangladesh and Myanmar insist the repatriations of Rohingya Muslims will go smoothly, with thousands of refugees who fled their homes

dangers they could face if they return home.

“If they send us back forcefully we will not go,” said Sayed Noor, who fled his village in Myanmar last August, amid a torrent of Rohingya heading for safety. He says Myanmar authorities “have to give us our rights and give us justice.”

“They will have to return all our wealth that they have

you did to them?”

The Rohingya Muslims have long been treated as outsiders in largely-Buddhist Myanmar, derided as “Bengalis,” illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even though many Rohingya families have lived in Myanmar for generations. Most have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendered stateless. They are denied freedom of move-

The attacks, which Doctors Without Borders believes have left at least 6,700 Rohingya dead, sowed terror across Rohingya communities, sending more than 650,000 people fleeing across the border. Most came in the first month or so after the violence began, but some continue to trickle into Bangladesh, complaining of ill-treatment by authorities.

In early January, following

national condemnation it has faced for the violence.

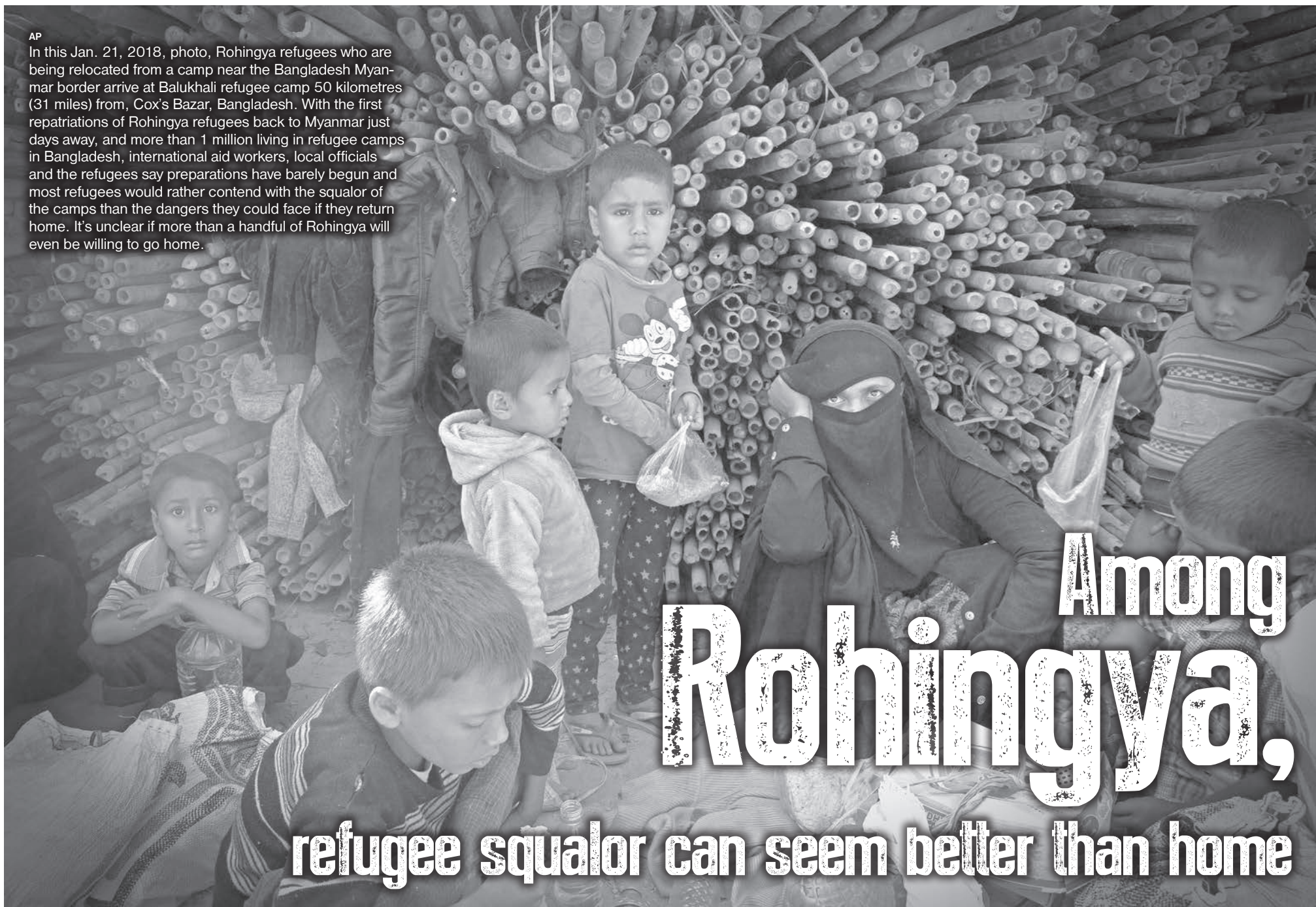
In Myanmar, officials have started building sprawling camps for returning refugees. Forty buildings have been finished already in the Hla Po Kaung transit camp, enough for more than 3,000 refugees, state media has reported. Eventually, the camp will have 625 buildings, enough for 30,000 refugees. In the-

government knows very well that only a few people will go back,” said Chris Lewa, the director of the human rights research group the Arakan Project. But officials want the good publicity that could come with repatriations, she said.

“When the majority of Rohingya refuse to come back, the Myanmar government will say ‘See, we have done what

AP

In this Jan. 21, 2018, photo, Rohingya refugees who are being relocated from a camp near the Bangladesh Myanmar border arrive at Balukhali refugee camp 50 kilometres (31 miles) from, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. With the first repatriations of Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar just days away, and more than 1 million living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, international aid workers, local officials and the refugees say preparations have barely begun and most refugees would rather contend with the squalor of the camps than the dangers they could face if they return home. It’s unclear if more than a handful of Rohingya will even be willing to go home.



in terror just a few months ago crossing the border back into Myanmar and returning safely to their villages.

Eventually, more than 650,000 Rohingya are supposed to leave Bangladesh in a process that guarantees them “safety, security and dignity,” according to an agreement both countries signed late last year.

But with the first repatriations scheduled for as early as Tuesday, and more than 1 million Rohingya Muslims living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, international aid workers, local officials and the refugees themselves say preparations have barely begun. Many refugees say they would rather contend with the squalor of the camps rather than the

looted and hold people accountable. They will have to compensate us. We came here because we are fighting for those things,” he said. “If we don’t get all of this, then what was the point of coming here?”

David Mathieson, a long-time human rights researcher who has spent years working on Rohingya issues, heaped scorn on the agreement.

“It’s a fantasyland, make-believe world that both governments are in,” he said in an interview in Yangon, Myanmar’s main city, noting that security forces there had just forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya across the border. “Now you’re expecting them to come back, as if they’re in a conga line of joy after what

ment and other basic rights.

Most live in poverty in Myanmar’s Rakhine state, near the Bangladesh border. Marked by their religion and their language—most Rohingya speak a dialect of Bengali, while most of their neighbors speak Rakhine—they are easy to target.

The recent surge of violence erupted after an underground insurgent group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, attacked at least 30 security outposts in Myanmar in late August. The military and Buddhist mobs then launched retaliatory attacks on Rohingya across Rakhine in a frenzy of killings, rapes and burned villages. The U.N. has described the violence as “textbook ethnic cleansing.”

up on their November 2017 agreement, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a deal to begin sending back the refugees starting Tuesday. Officials have said they expect some 1,500 refugees to go back each week, though only refugees with identity documents—which most Rohingya lack—will be allowed into Myanmar.

Bangladesh and Myanmar are both eager to have the repatriations begin. Bangladesh has grown weary of hosting Rohingya refugees, who have been spilling across the border for decades to escape violence at home. More than a million Rohingya are now believed to live in Bangladesh. Myanmar, meanwhile, wants the repatriations to lessen the inter-

ory the returnees will stay only temporarily in the camp before going home, though many Rohingya villages were burned to the ground during the violence.

In Bangladesh, there are almost no signs of preparations. A Bangladesh official who oversees the area where most of the camps are located said last week that “we have not finalized anything yet.”

Aid workers say some refugees may want to return—perhaps the 500 or so Bengali-speaking Hindus who also fled the Rakhine state violence, and the handful of Rohingya who have managed to acquire citizenship documents.

But how many more?

Not many, experts say.

“I think that the (Myanmar)

we can for them to return, but they refuse to come back and prefer to stay in Bangladesh, which was their own country,” she said.

Inside Rakhine, there are few signs that people want their former Rohingya neighbors to return.

“International pressure, because of human rights and humanitarianism, means we have to accept them back, even though we don’t want to,” Than Tun, a Buddhist leader in Sittwe, the Rakhine state capital, said in a telephone interview.

He dismissed the idea that the Rohingya had fled their homes. “We think that these Bengalis have gone back to their original land—Bangladesh.”

Overdrive

2019 Honda Insight aims to become America's favorite hybrid

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Honda will make its latest pitch for recognition as a leader in gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles when the sleek 2019 Insight prototype bows at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Monday.

The handsome, five-seat sedan will look right at home alongside Honda's hot-selling Accord and Civic. I expect prices to overlap those two cars' lineups, from the mid-\$20s to low \$30s.

Honda was the first automaker to sell a hybrid in the U.S. with the 1999 Insight hatchback, and it galls the company that it hasn't been acknowledged as a hybrid leader since then. The bullet-shaped, first-gen Insight taught Americans that a combination of gasoline and electric power could deliver a previously inconceivable combination of fuel economy, performance and fun.

Despite that, Honda's star two-door hatchback was soon eclipsed by the relatively stodgy Toyota Prius four-door. To Honda's infinite chagrin, Toyota rode the Prius to a decade of unprecedented sales growth and an image as the global leader in hybrid technology and fuel economy.

Honda calls the Insight debuting at the Detroit show a prototype, but the production model due to go on sale in the summer should be virtually identical.

Fuel economy figures aren't available yet, but Honda promises a combined EPA



2019 Honda Insight (Honda)

TNS

city/highway rating "in excess of 50 m.p.g."

More: Lincoln, Honda, Volvo named 2018 Free Press vehicles of the year

More: First Drive: 2018 Honda Accord zooms to front of midsize pack with turbos, new features

The EPA rating and sticker price will probably be key to the new Insight's success. Based on Honda's pledge, it could still trail the 2018 Prius, which scored 56 m.p.g. combined rating with its most efficient Eco model. The Insight has a better chance

of at least matching the best-selling '18 Prius model, which the EPA rates at 52 m.p.g. combined. Prius prices start at \$23,475, while the Eco model starts at \$25,165.

The new Insight looks great, with a long hood and fast windshield and rear window. The looks of the grille and narrow LED headlights and taillights are consistent with other Honda sedans. Honda's U.S. design studio styled the Insight.

Honda will build the Insight alongside the Civic and CR-V in Greensburg, Ind.

Power will come from a 1.5L engine connected to two electric motors and a lithium-ion battery. In most conditions, the Insight runs on electricity alone, with the gasoline engine powering a generator that in turn sends power to the front wheels. The gasoline engine connects to the Insight's wheels only occasionally, when the car is running at a steady speed on the highway and the system locks up to send power directly from engine to the front wheels for greater efficiency.

The interior features an 8.0-inch touchscreen in the middle of the center stack, above the shifter but below the dashboard vents. It manages navigation, audio and other systems. Traditional buttons and knobs handle climate control. The shifter is the same push-button control most Honda and Acura vehicles use.

The batteries are under the rear seats. Those seats are split 60/40 and fold to increase cargo space.

Available features will include adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning and

traffic sign recognition.

The new Insight appears to be longer than the Prius, though the Toyota may have more passenger and cargo space, thanks to its hatchback layout.

This is the third time Honda has sold a car called the Insight. The second-generation 2009 Insight was a four-door compact hatchback that looked a bit like a Prius but didn't approach the Toyota's fuel economy. Its main claim to fame was being the least-expensive full hybrid, but it never caught on with buyers.

UNDER THE HOOD

Avoid 4x4 mode on the road

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I read your column in the local newspaper, the Texarkana Gazette, and that's honestly the only reason I buy the Sunday paper.

I have a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado 5.3 automatic four-wheel drive Z71, approximately 160,000 miles, perfect maintenance so far. We had some winter weather, and I have some land, and I put my truck in four-wheel drive high, probably the fourth or fifth time ever I've had it in four-wheel drive. I parked it and went inside and forgot that it was in four-wheel drive high the next morning. I jumped in my truck and drove approximately eight miles, at the most 70 miles an hour. I noticed a little bit of tension when I was turning the steering wheel but just blew it off as being cold outside. I was at the store turning left and noticed the resistance and then I saw the button on the dash — it was in four-wheel drive high! I immediately I put it in two-wheel drive high and went on. What are my concerns? Could I have damaged the transfer case or the front axle and the CV axles up front? What should my concerns be? It runs fine and does OK now.

—Joel Andrew K. Doddridge, Ark.

A: Joel, don't sweat this! Your time driving on pavement in 4x4 mode was short enough there should be no problems. Your truck is a true 4x4, as opposed to the many all-wheel-drive vehicles out there that power all four wheels at all times but are fussy about having exactly identical tire size/wear to avoid driveline wear.

Operating in 4x4 mode on dry pavement does considerably stress driveline components as well as tear up the tires. As the truck turns corners or makes any turns at all, each wheel needs to turn at a slightly different speed. When four high or four low are selected, the front and rear axles are locked together. The stiffness and wrap-up you detected is fortunately mitigated a bit by tire slip. This is a situation that should definitely be avoided, to avoid rapidly accelerated wear on a bunch of components, but you caught it quickly!

Q: My 2002 Chevrolet truck makes an occasional jerking feeling when I'm driving about 60 miles per hour, and not at any other speed. I feel it when I'm just pressing a little extra on the gas, as when climbing a slight hill. There is no engine light, and it starts and runs fine at all other times. Do you

have any ideas for me to check? Thank you!
—Mario, San Jose Calif.

A: This is a longshot without being there to observe and test! I'm thinking perhaps engine misfire, and since it's so infrequent, that's why your OBD-II (on-board diagnostic system 2) hasn't yet identified it as an emissions concern and turned on the check engine light. If you can get your hands on a scan tool that indicates cylinder misfire information (either a premium level generic OBD-II scan tool such as the Blue Driver) or a professional grade scan tool, misfire counts can be observed. Each cylinder is listed, and should one indicate misfires are occurring, I'd try swapping that ignition coil with a neighboring cylinder and driving the truck again under the same conditions. If the misfire moves — follows the coil — that's a slam dunk that the coil is at fault (leaky coils are fairly common). If the misfire remains, swap or replace the spark plug and repeat the drive. If the misfire remains in that cylinder, professional skills will be needed to take the diagnosis further.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

'This Is Us,' 'Veep' casts take top SAG TV series awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"This Is Us" won the top drama series trophy at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards, making up for the Emmy and Golden Globe honors that eluded it and taking a stand for broadcast network TV amid growing online competition.

"The people that watch with us every Tuesday night and embrace this show that reflects positivity and hope and inclusion, we love you," said Milo Ventimiglia, accepting the award for best drama series cast on behalf of his co-stars in the time-tripping show about a racially blended family.

It overcame formidable non-broadcast competition, including streaming service Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," which is seen by its admirers as a political parable for today and won multiple Emmys and Globes.

"This Is Us" star Sterling K. Brown, a winner at those other ceremonies, added a SAG trophy to his collection.

"What a blessing it is to do what you love for a living. What an honor it is to be recognized by your peers for a job well done," Brown said. The African-American actor, whose character on the show is adopted by a white family, dryly thanked them for being nothing like the one in the horror movie "Get Out."

Claire Foy won the trophy for best TV drama series actress in "The Crown," in which she plays a young Queen Elizabeth, while Julia Louis-Dreyfus captured her third SAG award for her role as a failed politician in "Veep," which was honored for best comedy series cast.

Neither actress was on hand to accept the award. Louis-Dreyfus, who has been battling

cancer, is working on a play, the audience was told.

William H. Macy, who stars as a deeply flawed patriarch in "Shameless" captured a third trophy for his role. He used his speech to drive home a political point, calling it the privilege of actors to use fiction to bring honesty to their audiences.

Actors are able to "find the truth, and I think it's a glorious way to make a living—especially in this day and age when so many people either can't recognize the truth or don't think it's important," he said.

Two of the night's TV

nominees, Geoffrey Rush of "Genius" and Aziz Ansari of "Master of None," are among the Hollywood heavyweights facing various degrees of sexual misconduct claims. Rush attended the ceremony; Ansari, a Golden Globes winner earlier this month, did not. Neither won.

Nicole Kidman, carrying her awards sweep for the female-centric TV miniseries "Big Little Lies" through Sunday's SAG Awards, said the entertainment industry must stand with women if they are to continue exercising their power.

Kidman added SAG's best female actor trophy to Emmy and Golden Globe awards for her portrayal of an abused wife. She also produced the drama with Reese Witherspoon, her co-star, a sign of the growing strength of women that Kidman said isn't a given.

After reciting a long list of veteran actresses she admires, including fellow SAG nominees Susan Sarandon and Jessica Lange, she called it "wonderful" that "our careers today can go beyond 40 years old. Because 20 years ago, we were

pretty washed up by this stage in our lives."

The actresses she gave a shout-out to are proof that "we're potent, powerful and viable. I just beg that the industry stays behind us because our stories are finally being told," she said.

Alexander Skarsgard, who played Kidman's husband in "Big Little Lies," won the best male actor trophy for his role, and was sheepish accepting it and making acclaimed fellow nominee Robert De Niro a runner-up for "The Wizard of Lies."

Morgan Freeman accepts life achievement honors at SAG Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Morgan Freeman first stood on a stage when he was 8 years old, playing Little Boy Blue in a pageant. That's when he knew he wanted to be an actor.

More than seven decades later, the now 80-year-old Freeman accepted a lifetime achievement award Sunday from the Screen Actors Guild for the much larger roles he's played in his career, including his Oscar-winning performance in "Million Dollar Baby." Freeman was nominated for Oscars four other times, including for his work in "Shawshank Redemption" and "Driving Miss Daisy."

Actress Rita Moreno, who presented Freeman with the honor, recalled another lesser-known role Freeman played, acting with her in 1971 on the children's show "The Electric Company." She had the audience laughing about a role that would surprise some for the smooth-as-silk, dulcet-voiced Freeman.

"Morgan Freeman, Mr. Elegant. Morgan Freeman, Mr. Debonair, Morgan Freeman playing Dracula. With fangs coming out of his mouth," Moreno said to laughs before impersonating the creepy voice Freeman would use. "And he talked like this: 'Hello, little girl. I come all the way from Transylvania to scare the day-lights out of you.'"

On a more serious note, Moreno said Freeman was more than just an actor, narrator, producer and humanitarian. "This man is a national treasure," she said.

Freeman's acceptance speech was short. Donning a black baseball cap, Freeman said he wouldn't try to thank everyone he should because he couldn't remember all their names.



Morgan Freeman accepts the Life Achievement Award at the 24th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, in Los Angeles. AP

"This is beyond honor," Freeman said. "This is a place in history."

Backstage, Freeman recalled a tough time in his career, in the early 1980s.

"I thought my 15 minutes were up ... I needed to get a job," he said. "By the time I got down to the moment when you make that decision—give it up—something happened. Paul Newman came along."

Freeman was in Newman's 1984 film "Harry & Son," a

gig that turned Freeman's career around.

It was almost too late.

Earlier Sunday, Freeman said that if acting hadn't worked out for him, he once thought of a career in driving.

"I used to imagine myself being a chauffeur because there came a time I thought it was all over," Freeman said in a Facebook video taken from inside his car ride to the show. "I thought my career had reached its pinnacle, its peak."

It was seven years later that he did become a chauffeur of sorts—driver Hoke Colburn in "Driving Miss Daisy."

About his award for lifetime achievement, Freeman wondered back stage if there was a hidden message in it.

"The inference might be, 'Get off the stage, you're done,'" he said as reporters laughed. "It might, you don't know. My hope is that's not the case, that they're saying, 'Congratulations so far.'"

'Three Billboards' sweeps female-focused SAG Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Western-inspired revenge tale "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" swept the female-focused and led Screen Actors Guild Awards Sunday with wins for best ensemble, best actress for Frances McDormand and best supporting actor for Sam Rockwell.

It was almost an exact repeat of the major Golden Globe Awards wins with Gary Oldman also winning best actor for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour" and Allison Janney taking supporting actress for playing Tonya Harding's mother in "I, Tonya."

As with many of the awards shows this season, it was the treatment of women in Hollywood that stayed at the forefront of the show, which featured a roster of nearly all female presenters and Kristen Bell as its inaugural host.

"We are living in a watershed moment," Bell said in her opening monologue, which stayed light and mostly clear of politics. "Let's make sure that we're leading the charge with empathy and diligence."

With many prominent men in Hollywood facing accusations of sexual misconduct, virtually every aspect of awards season has been impacted by the scandal—from questions on the red carpet to anxiety over who might win.

Both James Franco and Aziz Ansari two weeks ago won Golden Globe Awards while wearing Time's Up pins before being accused of sexual misconduct and in Ansari's case, aggressive sexual behavior by an anonymous accuser. Both were nominated Sunday and lost, Franco to Oldman and Ansari to William H. Macy for "Shameless."

Rockwell, who beat out his co-star Woody Harrelson for the award, took his moment on stage to give a shout out to McDormand.

"Frances, you're a powerhouse," Rockwell said. "I stand shoulder to shoulder with you and all the incredible women in this room who are trying to make things better. It's long overdue."

Most of the comments in the evening were forward-looking. SAG-AFTRA President Gabrielle Carteris said, "This is not a moment in time. This is a movement."

Big television winners included NBC's "This Is Us," which took the ensemble award for drama and won Sterling K. Brown the outstanding actor award, and HBO's "Veep," which got outstanding comedy ensemble and a best actress win for Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

HBO's "Big Little Lies" picked up best actor in a miniseries wins for both Alexander Skarsgard and Nicole Kidman.

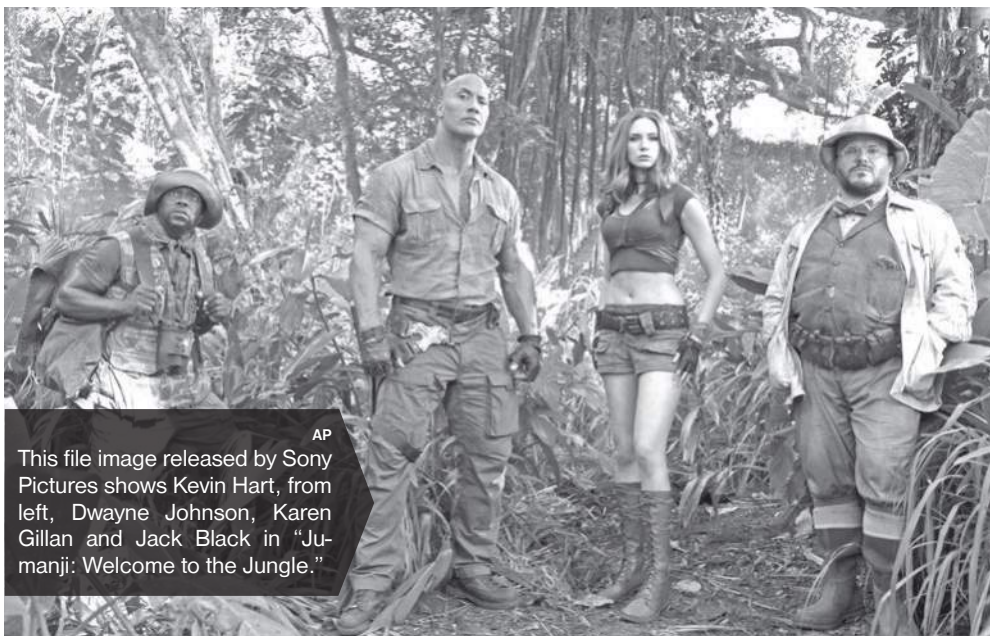
'Jumanji' tops box office for 3rd straight weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" outdid another weekend's worth of newcomers to top the North American box office for the third straight weekend, making the surprise hit the fifth-highest grossing film of all time for Sony Pictures.

"Jumanji," starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart, sold \$20 million in tickets, according to studio estimates Sunday, bringing its five-week domestic total to \$317 million. That makes Sony's reboot the studio's best non-Spider-Man movie domestically, not adjusting for inflation.

The film's unexpectedly strong staying power has lent a boost to the January box office but kept new releases from reaching the top of the box-office chart. "Jumanji" has also reigned overseas, where it has grossed \$450.8 million and topped all films internationally for three straight weeks.

The war drama "12 Strong," starring Chris Hemsworth, debuted in second with \$16.5 million in ticket sales. The Warner Bros. release, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, is a fact-based tale, adapted from Doug Stanton's best-seller "Horse Soldiers," about a group of Special Forces soldiers sent



AP
This file image released by Sony Pictures shows Kevin Hart, from left, Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan and Jack Black in "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle."

typically with \$6.6 million in its sixth week of release. The Disney release stands at \$604.3 million domestically—or no. 9 all-time, not accounting for inflation—and \$1.296 billion worldwide.

1. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$20 million (\$32.6 million international).
2. "12 Strong," \$16.5 million (\$2.5 million international).
3. "Den of Thieves," \$15.3 million (\$1.3 million international).
4. "The Post," \$12.2 million (\$6.6 million international).
5. "The Greatest Showman," \$11 million (\$11 million international).
6. "Paddington 2," \$8.2 million (\$2.4 million international).
7. "The Commuter," \$6.7 million (\$10.2 million international).
8. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$6.6 million (\$9.9 million international).
9. "Insidious: The Last Key," \$5.9 million (\$18.4 million international).
10. "Forever My Girl," \$4.7 million.

Justin says he's made peace with Janet

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Timberlake says he has made up with Janet Jackson following the infamous "wardrobe malfunction" at the Super Bowl in 2004.

When asked on a Beats 1 radio interview broadcast Thursday if he and Jackson have since made peace, Timberlake said, "Absolutely."

The singer, who is preparing for the release of his fourth solo album, says he and Jackson have talked privately about the incident.

"I don't know that a lot of people know that," Timberlake says. "I mean, I don't think it's my job to do that, because you value the relationships that you do have with people."

At the infamous halftime show, Timberlake ripped Jackson's costume to reveal her right breast, bare except for a nipple ring. Jackson was barred a week later from the Grammy telecast.

into northern Afghanistan just weeks after Sept. 11.

"12 Strong" appealed largely to an older crowd. Seventy-nine percent of its audience was over the age of 25, said Warner Bros.

The heist thriller "Den of Thieves" slotted in at third place with an opening weekend of \$15.3 million. The STXfilms release stars Gerard Butler and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.

Though "Paddington 2"

disappointed last weekend in its debut, the acclaimed sequel slid just 25 percent in its second week. "Paddington 2," which has set a new record for the most widely reviewed 100-percent fresh movie on Rotten Tomatoes, grossed \$8.2 million in its second week of domestic release, thanks in part to good word of mouth. Warner Bros. acquired the film's North American distribution from The Weinstein Co. in November.

Also showing unexpected

legs was "The Greatest Showman," the Hugh Jackman-led musical about P.T. Barnum. It dipped just 12 percent in its fifth week of release. With another \$11 million, "The Greatest Showman" has now grossed \$113.5 million for 20th Century Fox.

Also notable: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" crossed the \$600 million mark domes-

Weather Channel co-founder dies; doubted climate science

LAS VEGAS (AP)—John Coleman, who co-founded The Weather Channel and was the original meteorologist on ABC's "Good Morning America" during a six-decade broadcasting career but who later drew people's anger for his open skepticism about climate change being man-made, has died. He was 83.

Coleman died Saturday night at home in Las Vegas, said his wife, Linda Coleman, who did not give the cause of his death.

The Texas native got his

first TV job while still a student at the University of Illinois. He worked at several local stations in Chicago and the Midwest before joining "GMA" when it launched in 1975, staying with the program for seven years.

He served as CEO of The Weather Channel for about a year after helping launch it in 1981.

Two years later the American Meteorological Society named Coleman its broadcast meteorologist of the year.

Coleman went to work at

TV stations in New York and in Chicago before landing at KUSI-TV in San Diego, where he spent 20 years as a weatherman before retiring in 2014. Jason Austell, an anchor for the station's "Good Morning San Diego," tweeted that Coleman was "a beloved meteorologist."

National Weather Service forecaster Alex Tardy said Coleman's death was "a big loss for the weather community."

"He brought a lot of energy and color and enthusiasm to

forecasting," Tardy said. "My kids loved watching him on TV."

Coleman also drew anger during the later years of his career for his doubts that humans caused global warming, which he called a "hoax" and a "scam." In a 2013 KUSI news segment, Coleman, while talking about a global warming study, chastised national media for reporting on it from "an environmental point of view and their continuing liberal, political agenda."

Talented young dancers compete in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Hundreds of ballet dancers between the ages of 9 and 19 have been auditioning in Chicago at the Youth America Grand Prix regional semifinals.

Chicago is one of more than 20 North American cities selecting finalists to compete in the finals in April at Lincoln Center in New York City. Semi-finals have also been held in several other coun-

tries, including China, Japan, Korea, France and Mexico, among others.

On Friday and Saturday in Chicago, the students attended workshops, competitions and dance classes. The organization awards more than \$250,000 a year in scholarships to send young dancers to leading schools and dance companies to continue their training.

Single mom sees a future with two different men

DEAR ABBY: I am a 37-year-old divorced mom of two. I have recently gotten into relationships with two completely different men. One of them, "Steve," has the life I have always wanted, and he says he loves me more than life itself. The other, "Rick," I love more than life itself, but sometimes I have the feeling he doesn't love me as much as I do him.

If I were to love Steve the way I love Rick OR if Rick were to love me the way Steve does, the decision would be clear. I can see myself making a life with either of them. I risk losing either one as a friend if I pick the other one.

They both love my kids, and I love theirs. Both want to build a life with me. How do I decide which path to take? Once I choose, how do I not have questions or doubts about what might have been if I had chosen the other? HELP!

STUCK IN A LOVE TRIANGLE

DEAR TRIANGLE: You are no more stuck than you want to be. I know what decision I would make if my choice was between a man who loved me more than life itself and who could give me the life I had always dreamed of, and someone I was crazy about but suspected didn't love me as much—but only you can decide what is right for you and your children. I don't think you should marry either man unless you are confident you can do it without second-guessing yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I am 72 years old and I cry a lot. I'm so resentful of my ex-co-workers and my former friends I can't stand it.

I have lost two cherished wives, two children and one grandchild, while those people still have their first wives and all their children and grandchildren. Why did I have to lose people I loved? I am so full of anger that I no longer believe in God. What am I to do? Do I need therapy?

OLD AND HATEFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR OLD AND HATEFUL: You have suffered more than your share of loss, and for that, please accept my sympathy. The problem with harboring resentment and anger is that, unchecked, they feed upon themselves and grow. A therapist could be helpful by giving you a safe place to vent those emotions.

It is normal to cry when in emotional pain, but you could also benefit from talking with a grief counselor or joining a grief support group. Your physician may be able to suggest one. Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: My child attends a private elementary school. The school is trying to discourage gossip, which can lead to teasing and bullying. The way they do it is, when a child asks a question about another child, the teacher's answer is, "That's none of your business."

Whether I agree with that response is irrelevant because I

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



feel schools have the right to run themselves the way they deem proper. However, isn't there a nicer way to phrase it? I think I remember hearing years ago something like, "Please tend to your own affairs."

CLAMPING DOWN ON GOSSIP

DEAR CLAMPING DOWN: I agree that whoever wrote the script for those educators was less than tactful. A better way to phrase it would be, "You do YOU, and stop worrying about other people," which might be less harsh.

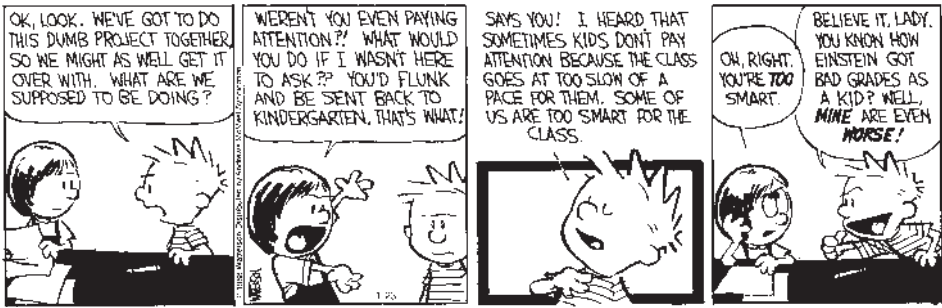
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

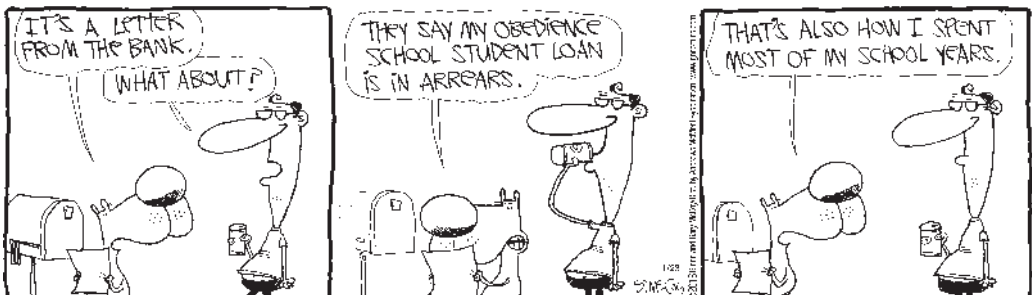
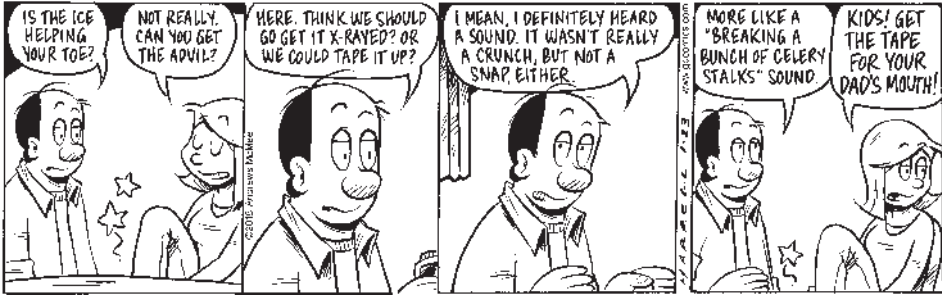
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Worry
5 Toe count
8 Earth circler
12 Opera set in Egypt
13 Squealer
14 "It can't be!"
15 Five-armed sea creature
17 Pano-rama
18 Highland hat
19 Shaft of light
20 Garlicky mayo
21 Melancholy
22 That lady
23 "Yum!"
26 Locked horns (with)
30 Turkish money
31 Comic Leno
32 Mexican entree
33 Medieval trumpet
35 Google competitor

DOWN

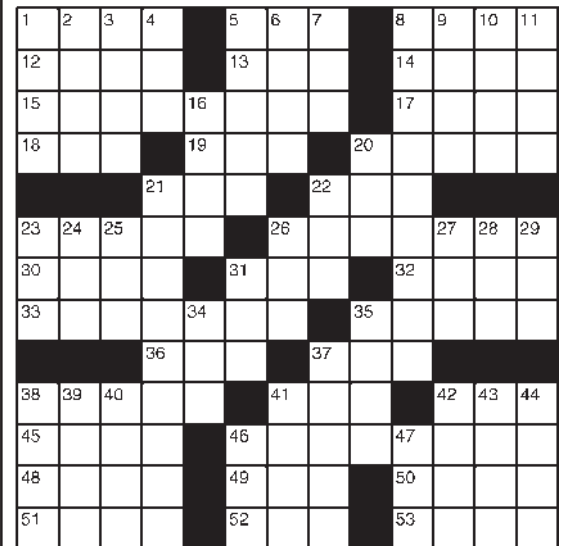
36 Talk on and on
37 In favor of
38 Pie nut
41 Cat's coat
42 Reggae relative
45 N. Mex. neighbor
46 Texas flag
48 Low-calorie
49 Have
50 Ale
51 Israel's
52 Layer
53 War god

1 Oscar-winner Moreno
2 Dutch cheese
3 Roofing goo
4 Group of three
5 Relaxed
6 Ultimate
7 Silver screen
8 Headliner
9 Wheeling's river
10 Scott Turow book
11 "— lay me down ..."
16 Unravel
20 "Caught ya!"
21 Astronomer
22 Devious
23 Pampering, for short
24 Have a bug
25 Madrid Mrs.
26 Soup container
27 Taunting laugh
28 Green prefix
29 Scooby—
31 Task
34 Author Fleming
35 Days gone by
37 Amusing
38 Tropical tree
39 Canal of song
40 New York's — Field
41 Poultry
42 Commotion
43 Welles portrayal
44 Sciences' partner
46 Prune
47 Hot tub

Solution time: 22 mins.

L	C	B	A	R	F	R	E	M	Y		
U	B	E	R	H	U	R	U	G	L	A	
N	G	O	A	N	A	B	O	X	Y		
G	E	T	B	Y	S	N	O	B			
			B	A	H	C	R	E	C	H	E
S	C	H	E	M	E	R	A	R	I	E	L
P	C	O	R	Y	E	P	S	A	R	A	
A	D	O	B	E	F	E	S	T	C	O	N
S	A	F	A	R	I	P	E	A			
			R	A	N	K	A	M	O	N	G
V	E	T	O	G	I	N	S	L	O	W	
A	V	E	N	O	R	E	S	A	T	E	
N	J	N	S	I	K	O	Y	E	N		

Yesterday's answer 1-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 44; Mariska Hargitay, 54; Gail O'Grady, 55; Richard Dean Anderson, 68.

Happy Birthday: Keep your thoughts to yourself and abide by the rules. Focus on ways to offer constructive help without being overly critical. It's how you handle others that will make a difference to the way things unfold this year. Stand tall and take the high road even when faced with tough decisions. Where there is a will, there is a way. Your numbers are 6, 17, 20, 28, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may not like your current situation, but you can use your intelligence to concentrate on doing the best you can. Complaining or criticizing others will only make you look bad. Personal improvements are favored and romance is featured. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your intelligence. Inconsistency will give others reason to mistrust you. Stick to what you know and only offer what you can. It's better to show that you are reliable. Avoid overreacting and being indulgent. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The changes you want to make will have to be well-thought-out. Avoid taking on too much or making snap decisions that will leave you short of cash or reneging on a promise you made. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships will experience difficulty. It will be best to weather the storm by standing on the sidelines and observing how situations develop. Leave room to make a hasty exit if necessary. ★★

Play it safe and avoid unnecessary stress. ★★
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A career change may tempt you, but get the lowdown before you make a move. You are better off making personal changes to your life before you take on a project that needs your undivided attention. Romance is highlighted. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Invest in yourself, not others. Walk away from fast-talkers and emotional manipulation. Trust in yourself, your skills and your ability to design your own life plan with confidence. Partner with those who have something to offer in return. ★★

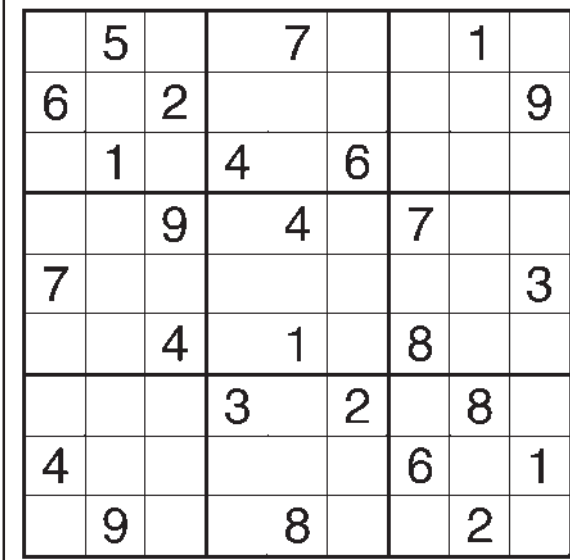
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be tempted to make an emotional move. Before you say something you may regret, consider the outcome and how it will affect the people you love. Don't act hastily when you need time to determine what you really want. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be extra careful in the way you present information. Precision and detail will be required to avoid being misinterpreted. Refuse to let personal matters interfere with your professional responsibilities. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let emotional issues ruin your day. Put the past behind you and head into the future without regret. Look forward to new projects and make the most of your time. Personal improvements are encouraged. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 1/23
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	1	6	2	3	9	5	4	7
2	4	9	7	1	5	3	8	6
7	3	5	6	4	8	9	1	2
9	6	8	4	5	3	7	2	1
3	5	7	1	6	2	4	9	8
4	2	1	8	9	7	6	5	3
1	8	4	9	7	6	2	3	5
5	7	2	3	8	4	1	6	9
6	9	3	5	2	1	8	7	4

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sensitive issues will need to be taken care of with diplomacy. Be a good listener, and once you've gathered all the information, consider your choices and respond with honesty and compassion. A professional matter will turn in your favor. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do your own research. Change can be good if it's well planned and executed with precision. However, snap judgments, assumptions and acting without thinking will keep you from reaching your goals. Rely on past experiences and choose wisely. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will stand in your way. Make an effort to concentrate on what needs to be done, not what others are doing. Take care of your responsibilities regardless of interference. What you accomplish will lead to an unexpected opportunity. ★★
Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and innovative. You are curious but cautious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AS THE TERN TURNS Solution: 7 letters

R D E S L A L U N R E T S S P
E R G Y R O T I R R E T H R H
D I A S S S N R E T R Y O E A
N B M K R O W G I E D C R N E
E L U I Y U E H A R E I E N T
L A L M D N W M O L V S L U U
S C P M D D L P S E T S G H S
S K K E O I R T R K L G H A
A U C R N O E E E A R L S S W
B A O E G R B C D L O I L O L
R G D N N I A I A S F B L O S
E A E A A R C V W D B S U T H
E M I O C E N E L A P A G Y A
D I V E R S I R F L Y E R G P
S D R A Z I L C R Y P T I C E

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Yesterday's Answer: Pop's Chock'lit
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WHATZIT Solution: The Lion King

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- Cash Handling
 - Receives payments
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Federer, again, into Australian Open quarters



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Just for something different (not),

Roger Federer is through to the final eight at Melbourne Park.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion beat former top-ranked junior Marton Fucsovics 6-4 7-6 (3), 6-2 in an afternoon match at Rod Laver Arena.

Federer reached the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park for the 14th time, extending his own record. He also reached his 52nd Grand Slam quarterfinal, extending his lead over Jimmy Connors, who had 41.

Federer had never played the 80th-ranked Fucsovics before Monday. But Federer had played the 25-year-old Fucsovics' coach, Attila Savolt—he beat Savolt at the 2002 Australian Open.

Tomas Berdych, who beat Fabio Fognini in straight sets earlier Monday, will be Federer's quarterfinal opponent. Federer leads Berdych, 19-6, in career meetings.

Tomas Berdych is back in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the seventh time after a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 win over Fabio Fognini.

Berdych has been this far at Melbourne Park for seven of the last eight years. The only time he's failed to reach at least the quarters was last year when he lost in the third round to Roger Federer.

The 19-seeded Czech veteran could play Federer again

in the next round if Federer wins his fourth-round match against Marton Fucsovics later Monday.

Berdych is 6-19 against Federer and hasn't beaten the Swiss star since 2013.

Angelique Kerber extended her winning streak to 13 matches with a frustration-filled 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Hsieh Su-wei, advancing the 2016 champion to the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Kerber overcame Hsieh's array of chip and drop shots off the Taiwanese player's unorthodox two-handed grip. At times, Kerber was frustrated with the shot selection by Hsieh, who had beaten Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza in the second round.

Hsieh saved two match points on her serve in the seventh game of the third set, forcing Kerber to serve out the match in the next game. She clinched the match with a forehand to the open court.

Kerber will play American Madison Keys in the quarterfinals.

U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys has advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-2 win over eighth-seeded Caroline Garcia of France.

Keys, who didn't play at Melbourne Park last year because of off-season wrist surgery, is the only American woman left in the draw. The only American man, Tennis Sandgren, plays Dominic



Switzerland's Roger Federer makes a backhand return to Hungary's Marton Fucsovics during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

Thiem later Monday.

The 17th-seeded Keys should move back into the top 15 on the WTA rankings with her win Monday.

In the quarterfinals, Keys will play the winner of the later fourth-round match between 2016 Australian champion Angelique Kerber and Hsieh Su-wei.

Six-time champion Novak Djokovic, 2017 winner Roger Federer and 2016 champion Angelique Kerber will look to book quarterfinal spots on Day 8 of the Australian Open at Melbourne Park.

Federer has an afternoon match Monday on Rod Laver Arena against former top-ranked junior Marton Fucsovics, while Djokovic plays a fourth-round night match against Hyeon Chung. Kerber takes on Hsieh Su-wei.

Djokovic and Federer could meet in the semifinals.

Under mostly sunny skies, 2017 U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys opened play at Rod Laver Arena against eighth-seeded Caroline Garcia.

The forecast high temperature was about 26 Celsius (79 Fahrenheit).



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Indiana made itself at home at an arena that's rarely hospitable to visiting teams.

Victor Oladipo scored 19 points and the Pacers defeated San Antonio 94-86 on Sunday night, snapping the Spurs' 14-game home winning streak.

San Antonio lost at home for the third time this season and the first since Nov. 10 against Milwaukee.

"It's just a great win for this young team to come into San Antonio, where they only lost two games," Pacers coach Nate McMillan said. "This has always been a tough place to play and to end the road trip when you're a little fatigued and a little tired. The challenge was mentally give yourself a chance by giving the effort, staying connected, playing together, and they did."

The Pacers became the first Eastern Conference team in three years to sweep a season series from the Spurs.

With Manu Ginobili, Rudy Gay and Kawhi Leonard out with injuries, San Antonio made a last-minute lineup change, bringing Tony Parker

Oladipo, Pacers end Spurs' home winning streak

off the bench for the 14th time in 1,165 career games.

Asked if DeJounte Murray would continue to start at point guard, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said, "We'll see."

Magic 103, Celtics 95

In Boston, Elfrid Payton had 22 points and Orlando won for just the third time in 20 games, over-

coming Kyrie Irving's 40 points.

Orlando snapped a 14-game losing streak at Boston. The Magic had lost 10 in a row on the road overall since early December.

Irving sat out Boston's previous game to rest a sore left shoulder. Despite his efforts, the Celtics dropped their season-worst third straight home game.

Evan Fournier added 19 and Aaron Gordon had a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Magic.

Lakers 127, Knicks 107

In Los Angeles, Jordan Clarkson had 29 points and 10 assists, Julius Randle added 27 points and 12 rebounds, and Los Angeles got its sixth win

in eight games.

Kyle Kuzma added 15 points for the Lakers (17-29), who continued their midseason surge of solid play. Rookie point guard Alex Caruso set career highs with nine points and eight assists, making the most of extensive playing time in the absence of injured Lonzo Ball.

Kristaps Porzingis, Tim Hardaway Jr. and Michael Beasley scored 17 points apiece for the Knicks, who have lost 12 of 16. New York slipped to 2-2 on its seven-game trip.

The Knicks couldn't keep up down the stretch with the Lakers, whose up-tempo offense flowed throughout their highest-scoring game in two weeks.

Nets 101, Pistons 100

In Detroit, Spencer Dinwiddie's jumper with 0.9 seconds left lifted Brooklyn over Detroit, the Pistons' fifth straight loss.

After a basket by Andre Drummond put the Pistons ahead with 4.7 seconds left, Dinwiddie took the inbounds pass, drove to 14 feet and drained a jumper against his former teammates.

Caris LeVert split a pair of free throws with 13.7 seconds left, giving the Nets a 99-98 edge.

Langston Galloway misplayed the ensuing inbounds pass, but was able to knock the ball to Drummond. Detroit's center nearly traveled in a rare drive from outside the 3-point arc, and flipped in a go-ahead shot.

Dinwiddie finished with 22 points. Tobias Harris led the Pistons with 20.

Cavaliers not planning changes amid slump

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—As LeBron James and some teammates practiced free throws at a nearby basket, coach Tyronn Lue addressed questions about the troubling state of the Cavaliers while sitting in a high-backed, cushioned chair.

While he was cool, Lue's seat has warmed up.

With the Cavs mired in a bewildering midseason slump and less than 24 hours after a historically embarrassing loss to Oklahoma City, Lue said he has no immediate plans to change his starting lineup or rotations. Cleveland fans may be panicking, Lue's not nervous.

At least not publicly.

The Cavs are just 4-10 since Dec. 19, and in the past two weeks they've lost by 28 at Minnesota, 34 at Toronto and 24 to the Thunder, who scored 148 points and tied a record for the most points allowed by Cleveland in a regulation game—a mark that went unmatched since 1972.

It's a mess, and it's a mystery the way James and the Cavs have collapsed. They've slipped in the past, but this slide feels much more ominous than in the previous three years when Cleveland stumbled but still reached the Finals.

"This is kind of just my experience with this team, to

be honest," said forward Kyle Korver, acquired last January in a trade. "The year that I've been here, we've been really good and we've been really bad. It seems to come in waves, so, hopefully there's a good wave coming soon."

With all that's wrong, changes would seem to be in order. Lue, though, believes the Cavs can solve their problems without any major alterations.

"It's the same group we won 18 out of 19 with also," he said, referring to Cleveland's stretch from Nov. 11 to Dec. 19. "We've just got to play better. We've got to play better, we've got to be sharper

and that's what we continue to keep working on. It's the same team that won 18 out of 19 and 13 in a row."

Technically, Lue's right. The Cavs' roster hasn't been touched—not yet.

However, the club has been in almost continuous flux over the past month as key players Isaiah Thomas and Tristan Thompson returned from injuries. Also, reserves Jose Calderon, Channing Frye and Cedi Osman have seen their playing time diminish and Korver, the sharpshooter who had developed into the team's best crunch-time player other than James, has had his role reduced.

Patriots, Eagles will square off in Super Bowl 52



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are going back to the Super Bowl in search of a sixth title.

They'll face a Philadelphia Eagles team looking for their first Lombardi Trophy.

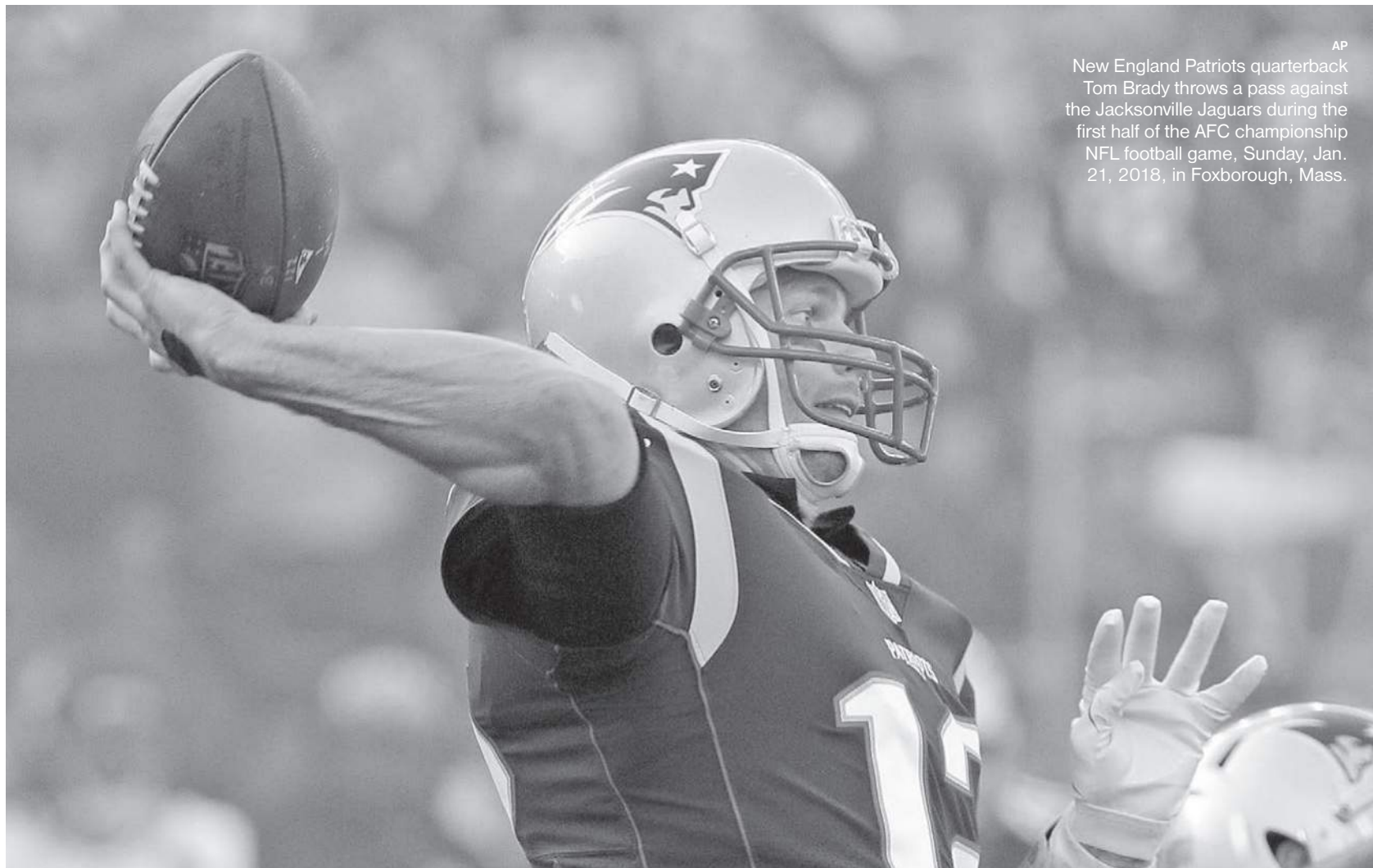
Brady led the Patriots (15-3) back from a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 24-20 in the AFC championship game Sunday.

Starting his 36th playoff game, Brady shook off an injury to his right hand and the loss of top target Rob Gronkowski to rally the Patriots to their record 10th Super Bowl appearance.

The Patriots will try to match the Pittsburgh Steelers' six Super Bowl trophies when they face the Eagles (15-3) on Feb. 4 in Minneapolis.

Nick Foles, the backup QB who was thrust into the starting role when Carson Wentz blew out his left knee last month, led the Philadelphia to a 38-7 rout of the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC championship game.

Foles threw for 352 yards and three touchdowns, showing poise and moxie in going



AP
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws a pass against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of the AFC championship NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass.

26 for 33.

The Vikings were hoping to become the first NFL team to serve as host to a Super Bowl in its own stadium, but

they followed up their "Minneapolis Miracle" with a "Flop in Philly."

So, they'll clear out their lockers long before the Eagles and Patriots and their fans take over U.S. Bank Stadium for Super Bowl 52 in two weeks.

Odds makers like the chances of Brady winning a sixth Super Bowl ring, making the Patriots nearly a touchdown favorite to beat the Eagles.

The Patriots and Eagles, who last won an NFL title in 1960, several years before the first Super Bowl, met in the Super Bowl after the 2004 season with the Patriots prevailing 24-21.

Hours after Brady's game-winning 4-yard TD pass to Danny Amendola with 2:48 remaining in Foxborough, the Eagles won for the fourth time in five tries under Foles.

It started out ominously, however.

The Vikings celebrated Kyle Rudolph's 25-yard touchdown catch from Case Keenum on their opening drive by mimicking the Olympic sport of curling for their TD celebration.

It was the Eagles who had all the fun after that.

Patrick Robinson's spectacular 50-yard interception return got Philadelphia started. Then Foles and his offense tore up the league's stingiest scoring defense, with long TD throws to Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith. LeGarrette Blount had an 11-yard scoring run when things were decided in the first half, and the Eagles were headed to an NFL title game the Vikings (14-4) hoped to be in at their own stadium.

"You know everyone was against us," Foles said. "Coming out here and stick together

and (we) come away with an amazing victory against a great team."

Blake Bortles and the stingy Jaguars (12-7) led New England 20-10 early in the fourth quarter, but couldn't hold against the defending champions.

The NFL's second-ranked defense kept Brady and the Patriots at bay for most of the game, but lost linebacker Myles Jack and defensive tackle Marcell Dareus on consecutive plays on New England's winning drive.

It was New England's 13th win in 14 games since their 2-2 start. Their only stumble since September was a 27-20 loss at the Dolphins on Dec. 11.

Brady, wearing a black bandage on his right hand after needing stitches to close a cut that happened on a play during practice earlier in the week, showed no signs of be-

ing hampered.

And, with the game—and the season—possibly on the line, the Patriots star came up big again.

"I've had a lot worse," Brady said. "I didn't know that on Wednesday. It was a crazy injury. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday was a little scary. Then I started getting some confidence and today we did just enough to win."

Brady finished 26 of 38 for 290 yards and two touchdowns to Amendola.

It's the eighth Super Bowl appearance for Brady and coach Bill Belichick, who have won five times—including last year's 34-28 overtime rally against the Falcons.

"It's pretty amazing," Brady said. "Just to be on a team that wins these kinds of games, it's just a great accomplishment."

Defense key to Patriots' postseason comeback

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—So many times during the Patriots' run of success over the past two decades, the defense was watching as Tom Brady sealed another victory.

In Sunday's 24-20 AFC championship victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars, the defense got its chance to secure the Patriots' record 10th Super Bowl appearance.

Jacksonville entered the game with the best red-zone scoring percentage in NFL, scoring touchdowns on 67.9 percent of trips this season (40 on 56 drives). The Jaguars scored touchdowns on both of their red-zone trips in the first half, as quarterback Blake Bortles had his way with short and intermediate routes to pile up first downs.

It added up to a 20-10 fourth-quarter lead, and left Gillette Stadium in stunned silence as New England's hopes of getting a chance to defend its Super Bowl title seemed to be dwindling.

But Jacksonville got conservative over the final 30 minutes, much like the Atlanta Falcons did with 28-3 lead in last year's Super Bowl collapse against New England. The Patriots seized on it and the Jaguars' offense never got closer than the Patriots' 25 in

the second half.

"We put ourselves in position to come back and just keep fighting," defensive end Tray Flowers said. "We knew they were going to run the ball, but we kept fighting and it was a fourth-quarter game."

The most telling example came after the Patriots took their final lead of the game on Danny Amendola's 4-yard touchdown catch in the back of the end zone.

The Jaguars initially went back to their success in the first half, starting the drive with an 8-yard completion from Bortles to Marqise Lee, followed by a 29-yard pass to Dede Westbrook to set Jacksonville up on New England's 38.

But the Patriots reset, and after an incompletion by Bortles on first down, linebackers Kyle Van Noy and James Harrison got to Bortles for a sack, prying the ball loose. Jaguars tackle Cam Robinson recovered the fumble, but it set up a third-and-19.

New England kept the pressure on Bortles and he could only manage a 4-yard completion to James O'Shaughnessy.

"They had maybe one or two plays that we talk about this time of year," safety Devin McCourty said.

Foles goes from backup to championship game hero

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Foles stood tall in the pocket, ignored the pressure and made one big throw after another.

On the biggest stage of his life, Foles silenced the critics who thought the Eagles couldn't get to the Super Bowl without MVP candidate Carson Wentz. Foles threw for 352 and three touchdowns to lead Philadelphia to a convincing 38-7 victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC championship game Sunday.

Now he's headed to Minnesota to face Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in

the Super Bowl.

"Words can't describe what I feel right now," Foles said. "All glory goes to God. I'm grateful and humbled to be part of this team. No one in the locker room doubted me. We kept working. I got more reps in practice and it's a rhythm thing."

While Wentz watched from the sideline, using a cane to walk following surgery to repair his torn left ACL, Foles picked apart the NFL's top-ranked defense. He tossed a perfect 53-yard touchdown pass to Alshon Jeffery with the pocket collapsing around him to give Philadelphia a 21-7

lead in the second quarter.

Foles then directed a 60-yard drive in 29 seconds to set up a field goal before halftime. He fired a 49-yard TD pass to Torrey Smith off a flea flicker to start the second half and tossed a 5-yard TD to Jeffery early in the fourth to make it 38-7.

Foles was at his best on third downs, completing 10 of 11 for 159 yards and two TDs. The Eagles had been 0 for 13 on third-and-10 or longer after Wentz went down. On Sunday, Foles threw an 11-yard pass to Zach Ertz on third-and-10 on the Eagles' first touchdown drive. His long TD pass to Jef-

fery came on third-and-10.

The Eagles (15-3) have been underdogs in both playoffs games, mostly because Wentz was no longer playing. They were the first No. 1 seed not favored in a divisional round game, a 15-10 win over the Falcons. The Vikings (14-4) were 3-point favorites despite also being led by a backup quarterback -- Case Keenum, Foles' good friend and former teammate.

"You know everyone was against us," Foles said. "Coming out here, stick together and come away with an amazing victory against a great team."

MIBF to open 3 competitions next month

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has lined up three tournaments for different age groups next month to kick off its 2018 events calendar.

The MIBF would start the year with the Lunch Hoop 3x3 Tournament as a way of promoting in the CNMI the newly added Summer Olympic event, which will be making its debut in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu also had 3x3 basketball for the first time with Samoa winning the gold after a 17-7 decision against the Solomon Islands, while Papua New Guinea settled for the bronze following a 20-15 triumph over Fiji.

The Lunch Hoop 3x3 Tournament has mixed and open divisions and each team must have a player over 40 years old on their five-member roster. The registration fee is \$10 per player. The tournament's tentative opening date is on Feb. 12 and games will be played from Mondays to Fridays from 11:30am to 1pm.

A meeting is set on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Gilbert C.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Sparks player, right, pulls up for an off-balance shot against a 670 Sonics defender during their game in the Diaz caging last year at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The new season of the youth league is scheduled to kick off next month.

Ada Gymnasium's conference room.

The Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League is the

next competition that MIBF plans to open on Feb. 12. Under 15 and U18 division titles for boys will be at stake.

CAROL

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and even synchronized swimming), keeping the CNMI's swim record books for decades, and representing the Commonwealth in off-island tournaments and meetings.

She would also bring with her record miles in ocean swim, having done several PauPau lagoon swims, 7K Eagle Ray swims (PauPau to Managaha), PauPau to Tanapag, and Escape from Managaha.

"Her dedication and endurance is evident in the annual Polar Bear swims. Last season (2016-2017) she set a record by swimming 104 miles during the three months of winter. The goal for under 60 years of age is 40 miles. Carol Lynn has probably swam more miles than any other swimmer in the history of Saipan, including many laps of the Marpi pool," said Pierce's swim buddy and close friend Suzy Kindel, who was at the pool deck to watch the former's last meet.

"I want to thank Carol Lynn for making our swims fun and for constantly pushing me. Next to the Sakovichs, Carol Lynn probably has dedicated more hours to the sport on this island than anyone else," Kindel said.

Kindel added she will treasure every moment she spent

with Pierce, including the most memorable one during the Christmas Eve of 2016.

"My best memory with Carol Lynn was when we were swimming in the PauPau lagoon. Usually, when we do that swim we try and often do find WWII bombs. But this time we actually found a bottle of champagne laying at the bottom of the lagoon. Carol Lynn somehow managed to swim about 1,000 meters back to shore carrying the bottle where we proceeded to share with our fellow swimmers! The coincidence of finding such a bottle in the vast lagoon was beyond belief and coincidentally it was a bottle of Korbel which is what we would often share on our birthdays," Kindel said.

"Carol Lynn's departure from Saipan will leave a huge gap in Saipan's swimming and in my life. Carol Lynn is my hero and a model citizen. And sadly my life will be changed as I will no longer have my best swim buddy next to me, pushing and entertaining me all at the same time. Swimming will be boring without her," she added.

SSC is also saddened with the departure of Pierce, but wishes her and her family well.

"Mrs. Pierce has been invaluable to the Saipan Swim Club for the last 25 years and we are sad to see leave, but

excited for the new chapter in her life. She has been involved with the club in some capacity for the last 25 years and her expertise, support, and leadership will be missed. I swam with her kids in the '90s and she was highly involved then and I had the pleasure of coaching her grandson RJ. As a new coach starting out, I turned to her for advice and she was always willing to help. Thank you for your reliability, passion, and love for swimming, and for working to promote swimming in the CNMI. We will miss you," SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield.

NMISF acknowledged, too Pierce's contributions to CNMI swimming.

"She has been one of our most dedicated swimmers, official, board member and administrator over the past 25 years. She has worked tirelessly to promote both competitive and developmental swimming. Out of the water, she has been an active NMISF board member, referee, and official at many of our meets. Carol Lynn has consistently been a valuable member of our aquatics community and her contributions have had and will continue to promote and encourage swimming for all here in the CNMI and through the Pacific," NMISF president John Hirsh.

Tournament organizers, who set a \$300 registration fee per team, have scheduled a Feb. 7 meeting at 5:30pm, also at the gym's conference room. Meanwhile, the MIBF is

also looking to start the Island-Wide Premier Basketball League for men's and women's on Feb. 14. The tournament is also an open age group and each team must pay a

\$400 registration fee.

For more information, contact MIBF development officer Elias Rangamar at ejrangamar@gmail.com or call 234-6672.

Micro Games qualifier for NMI weightlifters

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold a qualifying event next month in its bid to form a competitive team for the 2018 Micronesian Games, which is scheduled from July 15 to 28 in Yap.

The qualifying event is set for Feb. 17 at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center at the back of the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose.

The one-day tournament is open to athletes 13 years old and up. No awards or medals will be given away as only slots for the CNMI national weightlifting team will be up for grabs.

The qualifying tournament will start with the weigh-ins at 10am, while the actual

competition in each weight category begins after 30 minutes.



nia regions.

Members of Latte Built gym, owned by fitness instructor Derek Cutting, are free to join the qualifier, while non-members will be charged a \$1 fee just to compete. Registration forms are available at Latte Built or can be obtained by getting in touch with any CNMI Weightlifting board member.

The event is part of CNMI Weightlifting's continued efforts in promoting the Olympic sport, which has consistently produced medals for the Commonwealth in various tournaments in the Micronesian and Ocea-

Angel Nicolas, in the last Pacific Mini Games, went home with a bronze medal in the men's 94kg division. Ray Santos, Joey Tudela, Bonnie Cruz, Harold Aranda, David Barnhouse Jr., Salvi Villanueva, and Leo Apelo Jr. also won medals for the CNMI in other off-island competitions.

Weightlifting has been an Olympic event since the 1972 Munich Games and it offers eight weight classes each in the men's and women's divisions.

For more information, call CNMI Weightlifting president John H. Davis at 789-9211. (Jon Perez)

Tebow invited to spring training by Mets



NEW YORK

(AP)—Tim

Tebow will be at spring training with the New York Mets.

The 30-year-old outfielder was among a group of nine spring training invitees announced by the team Friday.

The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and NFL quarterback

is preparing for his second professional baseball season. He hit .226 with eight homers, 52 RBI and 126 strikeouts in 126 games last year at Class A with Columbia in the South Atlantic League and Port St. Lucie in the Florida State League.

Tebow was 4 for 27 (.148) with no extra-base hits, one walk and eight strikeouts in

nine spring training games for the Mets last year.

New York also invited first baseman Peter Alonso, infielder David Thompson, outfielder Kevin Kaczmarek, catcher Patrick Mazeika, left-hander P.J. Conlon and right-handers Drew Smith, Corey Taylor and Adonis Uceta to spring training.

CUBS

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fifth and seventh innings.

The A.J. Murig-managed squad—supported by Go See Mark, Geri Dela Cruz, and Senate President Arnold Palacios—also took the pennant after ending the regular season with a league-best 11-1 win-loss record.

The Cubs then clinched the SBL's U25 division title on a Peyton Lizama walk-off single, squeezing out a 9-8

decision against the Tanapag Falcons in last Friday's championship match at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons were also the runners-up in the pennant race, aside from settling for second place in the finals. The Blue Jays finished third following a 10-9 decision over the IPI Pirates, while the Cubs added the Sportsmanship Award to their collection.

Murig earned the Manager of the Year honors, while Mart Naputi was named the Coach

of the Year.

Richard Dela Cruz, Nokki Saralu, Verlance Secharmidal, Angel Palacios, Ethan Babauta, Keoni Kaipat, Shakobe Rangamar, and K.J. Kalen are the other members of the champion team, while Jerome Delos Santos is the assistant coach.

Meanwhile, it was A.J. Evangelista (not A.J. Norita as earlier reported) who went 2-for-3 and scored three runs in the Tanapag Falcons' championship game against the GSM Cubs.

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keep his team's safe distance against Kanoa Resort.

Meanwhile, in the girls division, Fiesta Resort improved to a 7-2 record after easing past Shirley's Coffee Shop last Saturday, 28-12.

Fiesta is likely to finish second in the team standings behind the GSM Lady Ol'Aces, which was gunning for a sweep last night when it faced the former in the penultimate game in the elimination round.

Marianas Variety and CTSI, which joined Fiesta and GSM in the playoffs, also played last

night against IT&E and Shirley's, respectively, but results of their matches were unavailable at press time.

SATURDAY Fourth Game

Fiesta Resort 28 — Tuazon 10, Francisco 6, Avelino 6, Joyce 2, Villagomez 2, Lee 2.

Shirley's 12 — Castillo 4, Santos 2, Enriquez 2, Vargas 2, Surima 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-10, 28-12.

Fifth Game

670 Sonics XVIII 63 — Malasarte 15, De Guzman 14, Ordon 8, Manansala 8,

Diaz 4, Kapileo 4, Apasan 4, Aque 2.

670 Sonics XVI 55 — R. Bernardo 17, Contreras 7, Sablan 7, Lagmay 6, Magat 4, Dancel 4, Chavez 3, Favor 2, Galang 2, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-22, 63-55.

MONDAY First Game

Sun Palace 68 — Morales 36, Hinson 8, Tenorio 7, Galarion 6, Factor 4, Podziewski 3.

Kanoa Resort 55 — Tenorio 17, Deleon Guerrero 15, Gamab 14, Muna 4, Yun 4.

Scoring by halves: 37-30, 68-55.

Saipan Baseball League Under 25 Division



Tanapag Falcons manager Doru Camacho, right, and coach Mike Cruz, left, join members of the team for a group photo after receiving their runners-up trophy following an 8-9 loss to the GSM Cubs in the finals of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League's Under 25 division last Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.



The Falcons' Barry Sunumai, center, receives the Catcher of the Year award from SBL board members Ben Jones, left, and Bernard Cabrera.



GSM Cubs outfielder Kiku Lizama shows two of the four awards he won after the regular season.



The Cubs' Fred Songao is the runs champion during the regular season.



Tanapag Falcons pitcher Frankie Lieto, center, smiles after being named strikeout champion.



Jose Lizama Jr., center, poses with his ERA champion and Pitcher of the Year awards.



GSM Cubs teammates and brothers Kiku, second left, and A.J. Lizama, right, get the most RBIs awards.



Infielder Virgil Secharmidal of the Blue Jays, second left, and GSM Cubs outfielder Henry Lizama Jr., third left, receive the Golden Glove awards.

Federer, again,
into Australian
Open quarters

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Patriots, Eagles
will square off in
Super Bowl 52

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol Lynn competes in last meet

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's
Carol Lynn Pierce
smiles for the camera
while waiting for the
start of the 50m butterfly
event in the Tsunami
Saipan Mid Season
Meet held last Saturday
at the Kan Pacific
Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the pillars in the CNMI swimming community had her farewell race last Saturday during the Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Carol Lynn Pierce swam in the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 200m individual medley, 50m butterfly, 200m medley relay, and 200m freestyle relay events in her last Saipan Swim Club competition on Saipan as she and her family are scheduled to relocate to Virginia this Saturday after living here for 30 years.

"I felt I came full circle in life. It was exhilarating, I began my tender years in a competitive swimming pool and felt it fitting to have my last federation event be in the water while my first born grandson R.J. Pierce officiated as stroke and turn judge," said Pierce a day after her swan song.

The long-time Saipan Swim Club and Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation official is leaving the island to be with other members of her family.

"We want to be closer to our seven grandchildren and four children who are spread out all over the U.S. It has been a wonderful 30 years on Saipan. My husband and I raised our children here and we feel we are definitely leaving home," the 60-year-old swimmer said.

Pierce is leaving Saipan after countless hours of helping SSC and its swimmers, coaching fellow masters swimmers (in ocean and pool swims

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670 Sonics XVIII, Sun Palace win



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 670 Sonics XVIII's Jeremie Manansala fakes off the defense of Saipan Vegas Extreme players during an earlier game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Playoff-bound 670 Sonics XVIII and Sun Palace closed out their elimination round campaign in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament on a high note.

Sun Palace topped Kanoa Resort, 68-55, in the curtain-raiser last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, while the 670 Sonics XVIII downed sister team 670 Sonics XVI, 63-55, last Saturday.

With the victory, Sun Palace finished the round-robin elimination with a 6-1 record and will be seeded second in the playoffs behind the unbeaten M&M Salas Ol'Aces (7-0). The 670 Sonics XVIII placed third with its 5-2 mark and will challenge Sun Palace in the second semis game this Saturday at 8pm. The fourth-ranked Kanoa Resort (4-3) will duel M&M Salas Ol'Aces in the other Final Four match this weekend at 6pm.

Jerome Malasarte and

Bryan De Guzman teamed up in leading the 670 Sonics XVIII to its fifth win with the former firing 15 points and the latter adding 14. Rafael Ordone and Jeremie Manansala also provided enough support to Malasarte and De Guzman after chipping in 8 apiece.

De Guzman dropped 12 of his total points in the first half to hand the 670 Sonics XVIII a 35-22 advantage. Malasarte contributed 7 markers in the opening frame and remained consistent in the second, adding 8 more. Ronald Bernardo had 17 for the eliminated 670 Sonics XVI, which finished the competition with a 2-5 mark for a tie for fifth to seventh place with 670 Sonics XVII and Saipan Vegas Elite.

In the last boys division game in the elimination, Sun Palace closed out strong, thanks to another solid offense from Christian Morales.

The Sun Palace gunner registered a game-high 36 points and as usual hit baskets in succession in the first and second halves to

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Cubs dominate SBL individual awards

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The GSM Cubs showed why they are the champions of the Under 25 division of the Saipan Baseball League after dominating the individual awards in both the batting and pitching categories.

Frankie "Kiku" Lizama led six Cubs players who brought home individual awards. He took four individual trophies, including the regular season most valuable player. The Cubs infielder also topped the league in batting with a .512 average and had two triples to also earn the award in that category, then joined brother A.J. Lizama as co-RBI champs with 10 each.

The Cubs' Fred Songao scored the most runs in the regular season with 16, while teammate Jose Lizama Jr. posted the lowest ERA with .028 that earned him the Pitch-

er of the Year honors.

Henry Lizama Jr., also a member of the Lizama-led Cubs, received the Golden Glove award as an outfielder, while Virgil Secharmidal of the Blue Jays duplicated the feat as an infielder.



The Pirates' Nathan Camacho was the doubles champion with five, while Frankie Lieto of the runners-up Falcons was the league's strikeout king with 34. Barry Sunumai, also of the Falcons, was awarded the Catcher of the Year trophy.

Cubs' lefty hurler Joe Palacios was named Finals MVP after pitching four innings in relief and limiting the Falcons to three runs on four hits with a strikeout and one walk. He and the GSM defense also shut down the Falcons in the

See CUBS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

GSM Cubs players pose with their team and individual awards at the conclusion of the Under 25 division of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.